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# Daily Report

# Latin America

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## Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-026 8 February 1994

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## Cuba

### Raul Castro: Illegal Emigration Via Guantanamo 'Madness'

*FL0702170694 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1231 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] Army General Raul Castro warned that the crime of illegal departures from the country is very serious when it is attempted through the U.S. military base in Caimanera because in that area of the national territory, an incident caused by chance or deliberately provoked by the enemy could lead to a conflict of unknown proportions. At the same time, the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] stated that in the past year there has been a atmosphere of tranquility on both sides of the fence separating the national territory from that occupied by the foreign military base.

The second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba referred to the madness of and provocation by those who attempt to leave the island through Caimanera. He pointed out that this was madness because they have to cross a densely mined field on both sides of the fence. He added that this constituted a provocation and an unwitting act of treason against the national security of Cuba, because armies which are not friendly have been deployed on both sides of the fence.

Raul made these declarations on visiting (Elmis Brooks Chivas) of the border patrol brigade, who is hospitalized at the military hospital in Santiago de Cuba. The 22-year-old soldier lost one leg as he tried to rescue a group of people crossing a field mined by the Yankee base in an attempt to leave the country illegally.

During the visit, Raul was accompanied by Juan Almeida Gomez, who read the agreement designating (Brooks) a member of the Cuban Revolution Veterans Association. At the same hospital Raul visited Simon Despain, a civil worker of the FAR who also lost a leg while carrying out technical work on the same border in Caimanera.

### Israeli Rabbi, Castro Discuss Relations, Peace Process

*TA0802083694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Feb 94*

[Telephone interview with Israeli Chief Rabbi Yisra'el Lau in Havana by Ya'el Dan and Arad Nir—live]

[Excerpt] [Nir] We will now turn to Cuba, where Chief Rabbi Yisra'el Lau just ended a meeting with Cuban leader Fidel Castro. Shalom to you, Rabbi Lau.

[Lau] Shalom.

[Nir] How did the meeting with the Cuban leader go? Are there any messages you would like to relay at this point?

[Lau] First, I must digest it all. The meeting ended half an hour ago, and it lasted exactly three hours: from 2155 to 0055. It was filled with so many issues and emotions, and the hour is so late, that I am having a hard time digesting it all. All in all, he is a very wise, brave, levelheaded, and cautious man. As you know, I did not try to approach him from the political point of view but rather from the spiritual and humanitarian aspects. Two issues are very close to him: First, the Holocaust, because he is a big enemy of anti-Semitism; second, he is very interested in the peace talks between Israel and its neighbors, but he knows I am not a political man who relays political messages. The issue of relations between our two countries came up in one way or another on various occasions. The only news I can impart to you is that although he did not promise anything, he evinced keen interest—as he was escorting me to the elevator, he wrote down the names of Ron Arad and our three MIA's from the Sultan al-Ya'qub battle.

[Dan] Does the establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba seem likely in the wake of your meeting with Fidel Castro?

[Lau] I am not acting on behalf of the Foreign Ministry, which retains full responsibility for such issues. He spoke with great admiration about the prime minister and the foreign minister. After having spoken to him for three hours on this and other related issues, I can say that he is waiting to see the progress made on the peace process. He wishes for—and I am quoting him—fair peace, final, and lasting [last five words in English]. I have more than a feeling that as progress is made on this issue, he will be more responsive and open on the question of relations.

[Dan] Do you think it is a condition?

[Lau] We did not use such words. He referred to it from the humanitarian point of view. He spoke about all the years he was isolated, especially by his neighbor, the strongest superpower in the world, which he has been facing empty-handed, and he noted that with the disintegration of the Soviet regime and the ensuing collapse, he has been left with very few friends around the world, some of whom are our neighbors. It is hard for him to take a step that will not be accepted by those who stood by him in times of distress. I believe I have made myself clear. I am speaking from the official guest house of the Cuban Government.

[Dan] Did he acquire a new friend as a result of your meeting?

[Lau, laughing] Did he acquire a new friend? I do not know what you call a friend. I do not see him visiting Israel tomorrow or the day after, but he is a great friend of the Jewish people. He deeply abhors anti-Semitism. He explained to me that during his childhood, people tried to instill in him notions about the Jews being guilty for the fate of Jesus. He is very non-Catholic on this issue. He was very glad when I mentioned that we hold fond memories of the Cuban Government and the

Cuban people for opening their country to European refugees upon the rise of Nazism to power. He was very touched by this.

[Nir] What sort of man did you find him to be? He may be the last vestige of an era.

[Lau] He is not a dogmatic man. In my opinion, he is very educated. He is an interesting man, very knowledgeable about the Bible. There is no doubt that he is charismatic. God willing, when I return home tomorrow I will tell about the situation here and the admiration felt toward the man nevertheless. Then you will understand that the man is simply brimming with personal charm.

[Dan] Thank you very much, Rabbi Lau. You say you are due back tomorrow.

[Lau] God willing, tomorrow I will start on my way back. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 8 February carries a report on Rabbi Lau's meeting with Castro, adding that "Castro emphasized that he has never denounced Israel and said he is sorry about reports in the Israeli media that Israel is not interested in establishing relations with Cuba. He asked Rabbi Lau to relay a message to Prime Minister Rabin and to Foreign Minister Peres expressing his admiration for the Israeli Government in view of the courage it has evinced in the peace process."]

### Qatari Foreign Minister Concludes 'Very Productive' Visit

*FL0702150194 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] On 6 February, Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani concluded his visit to Cuba. According to his own statements prior to his departure from the Jose Marti International Airport, the 24 hours he spent in Cuba were very productive. The foreign minister met with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, with whom he analyzed various issues of bilateral interest, and said that he was very impressed by the meeting and Fidel Castro's personality. In that respect, the visitor said that they arrived at an agreement on how to continue developing the relations between the two countries. It was agreed to take the relations between Cuba and Qatar to the ambassadorial level.

Regarding cooperation, the Qatari minister said that the results had been very positive. He announced that the two countries would exchange interests in the health care sector, especially in areas of medical and paramedical personnel, medicine, and vaccines. He also stated that his country has a special interest in the area of sports advisers.

Regarding the agreement signed by Foreign Ministers Roberto Robaina and Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani, Cuba will open its embassy in Doha, the capital of Qatar, within the first six months of 1994; Qatar will do the same in Havana during the year.

At the ceremony, Robaina described the visit of his Qatari counterpart as a point of reference to increase ties of friendship between the two countries, which need to advance on the path of cooperation and exchange. The visitor also met with Jose Luis Rodriguez, minister president of the State Committee for Finance, and expressed interest in the conditions that exist in Cuba for the investment of foreign capital and the signing of mutually beneficial agreements. The foreign minister of Qatar stated that this was the first step for possible future agreements.

### Says Meeting With Castro 'Fruitful'

*PA0702195694 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad bin Jasim bin Jabir Al Thani said his meeting with Cuban President Fidel Castro was very fruitful and positive. They discussed issues of common interest during the meeting. The foreign minister said: I was very impressed by this meeting, and we reached an understanding on how to continue our work to foster bilateral relations.

The Qatari foreign minister delivered to President Castro greetings from Qatari Amir Khalifa bin-Hamad Al Thani and from the crown prince, as well as his wishes of prosperity and well-being for the Cuban Government and people.

The two parties expressed their satisfaction with the development of their bilateral relations, whose diplomatic ties were established in 1989. They also discussed the prospects of stimulating trade ties and the exchange of visits by businessmen. The Qatari foreign minister, who headed a delegation of government officials, ministers and businessmen, just ended his official visit to Cuba.

### TRABAJADORES Comments on Economic 'Weapons'

*FL0702222994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] An editorial published in today's TRABAJADORES newspaper states that control of prices and inventories, as well as the discipline of collection and payments are the weapons against corruption. The text comments on the black market as a subject of the workers assemblies that are being held throughout the country. In these assemblies, the collective analyzes the economic effectiveness of each work center and the financial state of the country.

The black market economy is taking most of the workers' income because of high prices, a reflection of an inflationary phenomenon barely seen in the policy of state

prices. The editorial comments that the high prices of black-market products invite crime since many people who operate with state resources not only purchase on that market, but also become salespeople when they exploit the lack of administrative control and responsiveness to the so-called deficits [faltantes].

This black market, efficient organizer and duplicator of crime and corruption, involves more and more citizens who normally would not commit criminal acts, but whose scruples, under the current situation, are weakened, and who try to justify the mentality of "save yourself if you can," which is contrary to their normal way of being and thinking.

The editorial goes on to state that in the workers parliaments, there has been a consensus to take radical steps against those who have accumulated large amounts of money and property through shady or fraudulent means. There cannot be a respectable administration or a work collective with patriotic spirit that does not fight in favor of control, not just because of its effect on the economy, but to protect the morale, prestige, and dignity of the workers.

The editorial states that every labor union movement should take the matter in hand and demand that the administrations adopt measures to cut connections between the state economy and the black market. If every work center hoists the flag of honesty above any justifiable trend, then we are creating conditions for the success of future financial measures and subsequent restructuring of the management system.

TRABAJADORES acknowledges the importance of preparing ourselves to attack the problems at their roots. The editorial adds that we need to organize and protect morale so our ranks are not weakened, and so Marti's thought is strengthened: Poverty may pass; what does not pass are the dishonorable acts men commit, using poverty as an excuse.

### Views Current Migration Policy

*FL0702223094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] The newspaper TRABAJADORES published a lengthy article in today's edition by reporter Carmen R. Alfonso on migration policy, entitled: "Open or Closed Doors." Following are some of its most important aspects.

Stating that migration laws are customary, and more than that, necessary in any contemporary state, she notes that these laws vary according to political, economic, social, military, and other interests, and that Cuba is no exception to these general conditions.

Carmen Alfonso states in her analysis that our case cannot be ignored when analyzing the migration issue and its complexity within the Cuban-U.S. conflict, taking into account that a large number of Cubans have traditionally migrated to the United States because of its geographic proximity and economic development.

In addition to those who travel to other nations for work or for other official reasons, there are also those who travel for personal reasons. Among them, we can mention three categories: those who wish to leave and return; those who definitely want to reside in another country; and those who request residence authorization abroad.

At present, temporary leave is authorized for those over 20 years of age, although men up to the age of 26 or 27 years old who wish to reside abroad must first fulfill their military obligation. Minors under 18 must be authorized by one of their parents. It is appropriate to mention that last year, Cuba authorized temporary leave for 100,000 people, but only 40,000 managed to leave the country because the others had their requests denied, usually by the U.S. Interests Section in Havana.

There are also conditions for Cubans who already left the country. Those who left before 1959 must use the consulate of the country in which they are residing, and those who left after 1959 also have the chance to return to their native country through various programs devised for that purpose.

However, U.S. Immigration policy toward Cuba has an essentially political nature, which justifies the exceptionally privileged treatment of Cuban immigrants, especially those who violate the laws that are in effect in our country.

Nevertheless, an agreement signed in 1984 provides for the annual granting of up to 20,000 visas for those who wish to live in the United States. But the failure of the U.S. to fulfill this agreement has been notorious. Paradoxically, the TRABAJADORES article notes, risky, illegal departure is facilitated without exception or restriction of the number of immigrants.

### Lage Concludes Visit to Brazil; Departs for Colombia

*FL0802021794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Feb 94*

[Text] Upon conclusion of a six-day visit to Brazil, Carlos Lage Davila, Cuban Council of State vice president, said today in Rio de Janeiro that the United States is increasingly more isolated in its blockade against Cuba. Lage Davila has already left by plane for Colombia.

Lage said that an example of that isolation is approval for two consecutive years by the UN General Assembly of resolutions rejecting the U.S. blockade. He added that in the second year, the number of countries supporting the resolution for Washington to suspend the embargo on Vietnam has increased. He said that the lifting of the embargo on Vietnam is the result of the heroic struggle and victory of the Vietnamese people, thus making more

evident to international public opinion the unjust and cruel nature of the U.S. blockade against Cuba.

In Brazil, Lage Davila and his delegation visited Sao Paulo, Brasilia, and Rio de Janeiro. They also met with President Itamar Franco and the ministers of foreign affairs, the economy, and health, in a series of activities that yielded positive results.

### Alarcon To Meet With French Congressmen in Paris

*FL0802024794 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Feb 94*

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, President of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government, today held talks with (Andre Santini), head of the group of French deputies, Friends of the Island, whom he briefed on the current situation in Cuba.

During his stay in Paris, Alarcon intends to meet with his French counterpart (Phillipe Sagan), with Senate President (Rene Moroni), and with Robert Hue, national secretary of the French Communist Party, among other personalities.

Alarcon de Quesada arrived in Paris this weekend on the third leg of his tour through Europe that began 15 days ago in Brussels. In the meetings held with congressmen, government officials, politicians, and businessmen from Germany and Belgium, a spirit of interest and responsiveness has prevailed, Cuban delegation sources reported.

### Bank of Cuba Official Optimistic About Talks With Creditors

*PA0802004494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Report on interview with Raul Amado-Blanco, vice president of the National Bank of Cuba, by Marianela Samper; place and date not given; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast—recorded]

[Text] Cuba's total foreign debt currently amounts to approximately $7 billion, and since 1986 dialogue between the National Bank of Cuba and its creditors—the Paris Club and the Bank Coordinating Group—has not resulted in specific or important actions. This was pointed out to Radio Havana by Raul Amado-Blanco, vice president of the National Bank of Cuba. He also noted that in spite of this situation, progress may be made this year, which will prove very useful for all sides involved.

[Begin Amado-Blanco recording] We would like to move the dialogue along, so to speak. There are many issues to be reviewed. Our liquidity, from the viewpoint of freely convertible currency, as you are well aware, is not very good for conducting any sort of negotiations at this time. However, I believe an agreement can be reached if we sit down and talk and if, to begin with, our creditors acknowledge the efforts Cuba made for a number of years between 1982 and 1986 to repay its loans. They must also acknowledge the situation Cuba is currently experiencing. If we accomplish this I believe we will have established a solid foundation that will change our current status of immobility where the debt is concerned. [end recording]

As for the island's real likelihood of obtaining loans, the vice president of the Cuban National Bank said that some institutions undoubtedly lack the resolve to grant loans. Amado-Blanco said he has even discussed all the requirements for a loan and been ready for the final signature when the other side said the negotiations could not continue.

[Begin Amado-Blanco recording] In our case, since at this time we are working primarily with private banks, things are not done that way, although private banks are sometimes subjected to political pressure. However, I do not believe this pressure comes from either the IMF or the World Bank but from certain governments, the governments of third countries. Bank members may eventually hold important positions in the United States, and they fear jeopardizing those positions by granting loans to Cuba.

There are, unquestionably, countries with which we have debts, but in spite of this they have still granted loans to Cuba and have kept open certain lines of credit to the island. They are aware of our position, but they have political resolve. There are countries in Europe and on other continents that have done this and they are worthy of praise. In my opinion, their conduct constitutes a declaration of independence as far as their relations with Cuba are concerned.

In general, the issue of financial markets is a complicated one for Cuba at this time because of the many problems the country is facing, but we have had some success. We are trying our best to repay the new loans we have received. We are paying to the extent that we can, and we are being very careful not to request loans that we know we cannot repay. This, of course, restricts us because, as you know, our exports have decreased considerably. I have remained optimistic throughout 26 years at the bank, and I believe that as of 1994, or rather 1995, we are going to be quite successful in some areas. We will improve our overall image on the market, which is very important. Loan payments, first of all, are very important, and our possibilities and prospects are very important as they pertain to the analyses conducted by banking and financial institutions when they are considering loans for countries. [end recording]

To conclude, I discussed with Amado-Blanco the loan of $10 million granted by a Chilean bank to finance the exportation of food products from that South American country to the island. Amado- Blanco said an institution takes such a step only when it has confidence in a country, adding that a loan will not only allow Cuba to import food, which is quite positive, but to intensify its relations with a country like Chile, with which it maintained excellent relations until the 1973 military coup.

## Second International Bank Authorized To Operate

*PA0702232394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0139 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] Havana, 6 Feb (EFE)—The International Bank of Commerce (BICSA) has become the second trade enterprise with operations in Cuba after the Cuban financial authorities granted the corresponding license, it was reported today, Sunday.

For 10 years the International Bank of Finance has been operating in Cuba and was the first to carry out this type of financial activity, the local press indicated.

BICSA has a capital worth 1 million pesos payable in German Marks contributed by local corporations that make up the group of shareholders. The banking institution seeks to encourage foreign trade and to participate in the development of local enterprises to produce products and services targeted for export or sale in a freely convertible currency.

BICSA president Jose Vaz explained that the bank's creation "is in response to the nation's policy aimed at multiplying banking activity to strengthen and develop it." Until a decade ago, such activity was concentrated in the National Bank of Cuba and the People's Savings Bank, Vaz recalled. He added that among BICSA's possible main customers are the industrial and trade companies, as well as persons who wish to use the checking account and security box services.

According to the official, a network of correspondents in approximately 70 nations "will guarantee that the users can carry out their transactions in Canada, almost all of Latin America, Europe, the main Asian trade centers, and some African nations."

## Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 1 Feb to 4 Feb

*FL0702125794*

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 1 and 4 February.

Radio Reloj at 2030 GMT on 1 February reported that an agreement of cooperation was signed between the Cuban Ecumenical Council and the Sugar Industry Ministry to build a biogas plant in Matanzas to reprocess residues of other industries into cooking gas. The agreement establishes that German churches will finance the project while the Cuban Government will be responsible for the construction and technological assembly of the plant, which will also eliminate an important source of environmental pollution.

Radio Reloj at 2030 GMT on 1 February adds that the Agriculture Ministry phytosanitary board saved $800,000 last year by conducting a biological control program in Matanzas. The program succeeded in controlling the spread of plagues and diseases, thereby saving money spent in the past to purchase pesticides.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 2320 GMT on 1 February report that 11,000 people are self-employed in Santiago de Cuba Province with positive results for the economy of that province. According to estimates by the state labor committee, approximately 2 million pesos were collected during the last quarter of last year through registration fees. Drivers, craftsmen, tailors, and handicraft vendors are the services most in demand. Special studies are being carried out in Santiago de Cuba better to control and organize the self-employment jobs.

Radio Rebelde at 1000 GMT on 2 February reports that Matanzas Province's farmers planted 330 caballerias of tubers, vegetables, and grains in January, the highest figure for a similar period in the cold-season planting campaign in the past 10 years. At the end of January, Matanzas farmers had planted a little over 810 caballerias of miscellaneous food crops in the cold-season planting, which includes 162 caballerias of potatoes that are looking good.

Radio Progreso at 1200 GMT on 2 February reports that the Ministry of the Sugar Industry [Minaz] has announced that, nationwide, sugar sector workers planted a total 863 caballerias of cane in January, exceeding the month's plan by 48 percent. Minaz reports that all provinces except Villa Clara, Las Tunas, and Granma met their schedule for the month. This is a good beginning for the spring planting, which takes place "from January to 30 June," by which time 18,090 caballerias of cane are to have been planted.

Radio Reloj in Spanish at 2030 GMT on 2 February reports that electricity supply to the eastern region has been increased by approximately 100 megawatts with the establishment of modern Russian-made equipment at the Vicente Substation in Ciego de Avila. Several towns between Ciego de Avila and Guantanamo will receive the benefits of this equipment.

Radio Progreso at 1200 GMT on 3 February reports that the Claudio Arguelles Bicycle Factory in Havana has held a Parliament in the Workplace. During the discussions, one participant noted that no one wants Cuban bicycles "because they are very bad. They have no quality whatsoever, none whatsover." Another noted that the cost of producing a bicyle in 1993 was 140.95 pesos, and that the bicycle sold for 95 pesos; therefore, these bicycles were subsidized to the tune of "some 2 million pesos." A third participant pointed out that the poor quality was not the fault of the assembly plant but lay, instead, in the poor work done by the workshops that produce the parts assembled at the Claudio Arguelles plant.

Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision at 0100 GMT on 4 February report the following:

Three new 15-megawatt turbogenerators were installed at the Panama agricultural complex in Vertientes Municipality in Camaguey.

In 1993, the Department of Transit in Havana City reported 1,825 traffic accidents, in which 348 people died and 1,605 were injured. Comparison to 1992 figures shows a 40-percent drop in the number of accidents and 16 percent in injuries. In 1992, one person died in every nine accidents; in 1993, one person died in every five.

The Comandante Pinares General Hospital in Pinar del Rio Province benefited from a donation by the German Government to the Cuban Red Cross of 12 tons of food valued at $100,000. The German company, Mercedes-Benz, also donated an intensive care ambulance valued at $50,000 to the Cuban Red Cross.

Radio Progreso at 1200 GMT on 4 February reports the following, citing the 4 February edition of GRANMA: Cuba had 6.644 billion cubic meters of water in its reservoirs at the end of January 1994, 74 percent of their potential.

Cuba has almost 4,000 minidairy farms. Import costs of $5 million dollars were avoided in 1993 by practicing recycling.

Of the over 800 Basic Cooperative Production Units in the agriculture-livestock sector in Cuba, 238 are in miscellaneous crops and 431 in commercial cattle-raising. The rest are in activities related to coffee, rice, and forestry.

## Haiti

### CARENA National Conference Opens on 6 Feb

*FL0702182594 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Report by Jean Luckenson from the national conference convened by the Committee of Actions for National Reconciliation, CARENA, in Port-au-Prince on 6 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] A national conference opened on 6 February at the Holiday Inn in Champ-de-Mars. Conference organizers invited the delegates to commit themselves in a patriotic spirit to untangle the crisis. Jean Luckenson reports:

[Begin recording, in Creole] We have patiently set out today to seek a solution to the crisis the country is experiencing. It is perhaps one of the gravest crises ever experienced in our national history. We must find a solution, an effective remedy to this cancer gnawing at our society at the end of this century, because the times are grave. We need peace in a Haitian society that is examining its future. Today, our concern is an urgent solution so that coming generations do not judge us. These statements were made by Fritz Bissereth, CARENA national coordinator, in his speech opening the national conference at about 1100 on 6 February. [passage omitted]

Bissereth went on to say we must set aside our divergences or political opinions, regardless of sector, so we can find an urgent solution within the next 48 hours. After the opening speech, the audience stood up to observe one minute of meditation. A delegation then placed a spray of flowers before the altar of the homeland.

The high point in this rally today was the statements of the delegates and the various resolutions they introduced. Of the 100 [invited], 65 guests representing political parties or socioprofessional organizations were present. Divergent opinions were presented in the delegates' statements. Some opted for the application of Article 148 of the country's fundamental law; others demanded [the application of] Article 149. National Coalition spokesman Carl Denis asked for a clean sweep, as a true solution, or a triumvirate or five-member consultive council. For his part, the representative of the National Rally Party [PARAN] has withdrawn because, in his opinion, there is no presidium managing this national conference. According to the PARAN representative, Frantz Gerard Verret, the CARENA members are acting as sole sovereigns whereas, in principle, the National Assembly should be making decisions. [passage omitted]

The panel was made up of the Reverend Aurel Chery; Gabriel Miracles, representative of the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers for the union sector; Max Beauvoir, representative of National BODE [BODE Nasyonal, voodoo organization, expansion unknown]; Manfred Antoine, representative of the people's sector and the National Front for Change and Democracy; Dr. Rony Durant, representative of the Higher Institute of Political and Juridical Sciences; and Colonel Wilson Eustache, representative of the Army. We should tell you that the representatives of the resigning government were not present, nor was the diplomatic corps. The rally took place in a very calm atmosphere. The room was very crowded. We saw a big national flag and slogans advocating peace and reconciliation. On the whole, this was the situation at the Holiday Inn. Jean Luckenson for Signal FM. [end recording]

### Ambassador, Legislators Travel to U.S. for Consultation

*FL0702182194 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] A delegation of Haitian legislators is visiting the United States for high-level consultations. The Haitian legislators, including Firmin Jean-Louis and Frantz Robert Monde, are scheduled to meet with officials of the U.S. State Department and, possibly, with President-in-Exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Minister of National Education Victor Benoit, U.S. Ambassador William Lacy Swing, and Dante Caputo's political adviser, Leandro Despouilles, are with the delegation. Haitian legislative delegates include Senator Julio Larosiliere; the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Frantz Robert Monde; and Deputies Jean Talendier [Desjardins] and Jean-Jacques Seignon.

## Salinas Concludes Visit to Switzerland, Returns

*PA0402185394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2056 GMT 29 Jan 94*

[Text] Davos, Switzerland, 29 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari today concluded a working tour in this city where he participated in the World Economic Forum and where he met with political and business leaders from around the world.

On his last day of activities, the Mexican president was the main speaker at the forum's morning session. In his speech he pointed out the need for greater North-South coordination in matters related to technology, industrial production, and monetary and fiscal policy.

He stressed that since 1990 the world has been changing, and, in turn, Mexico has decided to be bold in promoting its international trade policies. This is why it stepped up the negotiations on NAFTA which was implemented on 1 January.

Salinas said: "Faithful to its diversification policy, Mexico has already signed a trade agreement with Chile and has made progress in similar projects with Colombia, Venezuela, and the Central American nations." He also stressed the reform process undertaken by his government in recent years, and he pointed out the importance of fitting together economic, political, and social reforms. "This means achieving economic efficiency with social justice," he noted.

At the forum, Salinas de Gortari also made reference to the events taking place in the Mexican southern state of Chiapas, indicating it is a local problem in a region that suffers extreme poverty. He asserted that to resolve this conflict "wrong methods used in other parts of the world in the fifties and sixties and even in the seventies will not be used."

Although it is true that there are economic and social inequalities in Chiapas, the Zapatist National Liberation Army revolt "is not an Indian revolt but, rather, it is a trained revolt, prepared and led by a group that upholds a radical ideology."

After taking part in the World Economic Forum, the Mexican president concluded his working visit, which even included a series of interviews with diverse international personalities. Salinas de Gortari met with a group of important businessmen at an event organized by the Mexican Investment Council, led by its president Jaime Alatorre.

Salinas de Gortari also met with Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto with whom he took up both nations' bilateral relations. They also discussed in a cordial fashion other issues of common interest.

During his meeting with OECD Director Jean Claude Paye, he discussed the world economic outlook, the evolution of the Mexican economy, and the process Mexico must go through to join that organization, slated for the second half of 1994.

President Salinas de Gortari also met with Switzerland's Foreign Minister Flavio Cotta, during which the economic and political process in Europe was analyzed. He also held a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the Middle East peace process. He also met with Leon Brittan, head of the EC Trade Commission, with whom he discussed the process of European integration as well as Mexico's economic and trade relations with that region.

At the conclusion of his activities at Davos, the Mexican president traveled to Zurich to board the Mexican Air Force's TP-01 "Presidente Juarez" presidential plane to return to the Mexican capital where he is expected to arrive tonight.

## Foreign Secretary on Ties With Cuba, Cooperation

*PA0402163994 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0046 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Foreign Secretary Manuel Tello stressed today the points of agreement on foreign policy that exist between Mexico and Cuba, on the occasion decorating Cuban Ambassador Jose Fernandez de Cossio with the Order of the Aztec Eagle.

The Mexican foreign secretary said that the struggle in defense of international law, respect for the principles of self-determination and sovereignty, and juridic equality between states are of singular value for Mexico and Cuba. The diplomat hosted a farewell dinner and decorated the Cuban ambassador to Mexico with the Order of the Aztec Eagle. For Mexicans and Cubans, the teachings of poet Jose Marti are equally important in stressing that "liberty has a high cost and it is necessary to renounce living without it or buying it at its cost," he stated. [sentence as received]

Speaking to the diplomatic corps accredited to Mexico and in the presence of Maria de los Angeles Moreno, president of the Great Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, Tello said that the two countries have an irrevocable sense of defense and preservation of liberty.

Recognizing the work of Fernandez de Cossio during his 10 years at the head of the Cuban mission in Mexico, the foreign minister noted that his professionalism contributed to strengthening dialogue and cooperation between the two countries. Tello noted that in the past years bilateral relations grew and were strengthened, while commercial and economic ties and cooperation programs in science, culture, technology, and education experienced important development. The Mexican foreign secretary stressed the diplomat's merits that earned him the Order of the Aztec Eagle, which since 1935 is given to friends of Mexico.

### Government Regrets U.S. Jury Verdict on Killed Mexican

*PA0502144094 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] The Mexican Government today regretted that a U.S. jury returned a verdict of not guilty in the case of a policeman charged with killing a Mexican in Phoenix, Arizona. The Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat said this could set a precedent of impunity for those who murder Mexican citizens.

### PRI Rival Groups Clash, Dispute Municipal Headship

*PA0502230394 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[From the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] Two PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] rival groups that are disputing municipal headship in San Mateo, Atengo, Mexico State, clashed on the morning of 3 February, causing severe damage to municipal headquarters and injury to several individuals. One municipal police patrol vehicle and a private vehicle were torched during the clashes. Both sides are fighting over the San Mateo Municipality, Atengo, one in favor of Santiago Cepeda and the other in favor of (Gustavo Sejuro).

### PRI's Colosio: 21 Aug Elections Threatened

*PA0502231894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0723 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Feb (EFE)—Luis Donaldo Colosio, the official presidential candidate for the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), has said the presidential elections scheduled for August in Mexico are being threatened by political forces aimed at "marring the process."

"If we do not work to hold clean elections, there will be those ready to mar the process and set the stage for conflicts and negotiations outside the law," Colosio has told his party members in Colula, a town in Puebla State, central Mexico.

The presidential elections assumed a new meaning after the Indian uprising that took place on 1 January in Chiapas State, southeastern Mexico.

The Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) declared war on the government to demand solutions to poverty and other matters of political concern related to the presidential elections.

In the 21 August elections, approximately 42 million registered Mexican voters will elect the president, 300 deputies, and 126 senators among the candidates of nine political parties.

Alfonso Ramirez Cuellar, spokesman of the third parliamentary bloc, the opposition PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], told EFE today the electoral environment "is weak, given an outdated legislations was enacted to favor the government party."

Ramirez added: "The current legislation approved in 1993 allows electoral manipulation by the government and its party."

The spokesman has reiterated the need to convene the Mexican Congress to special sessions to revise the rules on which the elections are based and to sign an agreement that will guarantee calm elections.

According to Ramirez Cuellar, the financial ceiling set for the electoral campaign, fixed at $40 million for each candidate, "is still too high; besides, there is no strict control" of this.

Another aspect that contributes to the weakening of the electoral environment, he said, is the media's partiality "to the extent that we want the media to be regulated so that equal access" is allowed to all political parties.

PRD President Porfirio Munoz Ledo has said the debate on political reforms would help the negotiators in Chiapas achieve true and lasting peace, based on clear and open elections.

Meanwhile, PRI Deputy Juan Ramiro Robledo says his party is willing to discuss the possibility of holding special sessions, because "we have a responsibility, and we must find points of consensus."

The deterioration of the electoral environment increased after the daily LA JORNADA received anonymous threats from an anticommunist front for being considered an EZLN mouthpiece.

After the threats, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari expressed his solidarity with the daily.

The Mexican presidential candidates are Luis Dolando Colosio, PRI; Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, National Action Party; Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, PRD; Pablo Emilio Madero of the National Opposition Union; and Cecilia Sot, of the Labor Party; Rafael Aguilar Talamantes, Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party; Jorge Gonzalez Torres, Mexican Green Ecologist Party; Marcela Lombardo Toledado, Popular Socialist Party; and Alvaro Perez Trevino, Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution.

### Roundup of Electoral Developments

*PA0402184694*

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on developments related to the Mexican elections, scheduled for 21 August 1994. Today, Luis Donaldo Colosio, presidential candidate for the Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI, visited the Benito Juarez and Ixtapalapa neighborhoods in Mexico City as part of his

political campaign. In both neighborhoods, several people asked him to adopt measures to prevent police abuse and to increase security. Colosio said he will not let Mexican children, women, and youths live with the threat of assault, robbery, abuse, or violence. He added that PRI is the party of peace and tranquility. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 29 Jan 94)

Upon returning from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, presidential candidate for the National Action Party, PAN, was interviewed at the International Airport in Mexico City. He referred to the agreements signed on 28 January at the Federal Electoral Institute, saying they are the result of a serious effort by all political parties and electoral authorities. He said Mexico can have honest elections, as demanded by the people, and stressed no fraud can overcome the will of a people determined to have a certified government. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 29 Jan 94)

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, presidential candidate for the Party of the Democratic Revolution, PRD, was in San Luis, Rio Colorado, Sonora on 28 January, where he attended a meeting with party members. He said agricultural policy for efficient production must be based on large investments and credits for crops and commercialization. He noted that it is necessary to recover the right to demand land from landowners and eliminate constitutional reforms that prevent peasants from demanding land. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 29 Jan 94)

Jorge Gonzalez Torres, presidential candidate for the Mexican Ecologist Party, PEM, ended a two-day campaign tour in Chihuahua. Gonzalez Torres said he is not seeking votes from the Indians, as most of them do not have the credentials to vote. He rejected any possible participation of foreign observers at the Mexican presidential elections. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 29 Jan 94)

On 31 January, PRD presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas signed a document entitled Twenty Commitments for Democracy. He said this document represents progress in the transition to democracy and power by peaceful means. He proposed that all presidential candidates ratify this document on 5 February, the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the promulgation of the 1917 Constitution. (Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Feb 94)

PEM Presidential candidate Jorge Gonzalez Torres toured Mexico State. He said Diego Fernandez de Zevallos' attitude and the attitude of the system encourages a sterile bipartisan system that gives the impression of an apparent democracy, which only contributes to making Mexicans lose faith in political parties. He added that the proposal to the rebels by Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace in Chiapas, should have different conditions, guaranteeing democracy in Mexico with prior steps allowing for their incorporation into the country's political life. Finally, he said the government has totally failed to take care of social needs, and he added that corruption, dishonesty, and bureaucracy do not permit social justice. (Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Feb 94)

PRI National Leader Fernando Ortiz Arana said PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio is a man desirous of making changes, with a solid PRI background, and the clear vision to carry out profound social reform. (Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Feb 94)

PRI Presidential Candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio visited the House of Emiliano Zapata in Morelos State. He addressed thousands of peasants, who asked for his support. He recognized the cry for freedom and liberty is still a demand for justice. Colosio said if he won the presidency, he would work to incorporate the poorest Mexicans into a life of democracy and liberty. He added he will not tolerate corrupt government officials from poor communities, who arrive poor and leave rich. He recognized there have been offenses against the Indians' dignity. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 2 Feb 94)

Marcela Lombardo, presidential candidate for the Popular Socialist Party, visited Veracruz on 1 February. She expressed opposition to the presence of foreign observers at the 21 August elections. She said Mexicans are prepared to carry out peaceful and honest elections. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 2 Feb 94)

PEM Presidential candidate Jorge Gonzalez Torres signed the Twenty Commitments for Democracy document, which was prepared based on proposals made by more than 300 citizens and presented by PRI member Demetrio Sodi. Gonzalez Torres recommended appointing national observers to the upcoming elections. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 2 Feb 94)

## EZLN Calls for Guerrero Indians' Support

*PA0702125094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0349 GMT 6 Feb 94*

[Text] San Cristobal de las Casas (Mexico), 5 Feb (EFE)—Today, the rebel Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) called on Indian groups from the southern Mexican state of Guerrero to join their struggle. "Do not abandon us, do not let us die alone, do not let our struggle end in a vacuum," the EZLN said in a message released today, Saturday, and sent to the executive coordinating commission of the Guerrero State Council of Indian and Peasants Organization.

The communique came in reply to a letter by Guerrero Indian organizations, which includes representatives from the Amusgo, Mixtecos, Nahuatls, and Tlapenecos

ethnic groups, and was delivered to the EZLN by its intermediary [Monsignor] Samuel Ruiz, bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas.

The EZLN called on the Guerrero Indian organizations to "take our blood as nourishment, fill your hearts and the hearts of all good men of this Indian and non-Indian land," but does not specify the type of support they request. "Brothers, let our path be the same for all: liberty, democracy, justice," the Zapatistas added.

Guerrero, located approximately 300 km south of Mexico City, is one of the states most analysts believe will show evidence of the EZLN movement. Recently, local police initiated an operation to search for guerrilla hideouts in this state's mountainous region.

The last Mexican guerrilla rebellion occurred in Guerrero in 1970 with the Party of the Poor, founded by Lucio Cabanas, a rebellion subsequently controlled by the Armed Forces.

## EZLN Leader Discusses Peace Talks, Denies Foreign Backing

*PA0702143294 Paris AFP in Spanish 1302 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] Madrid, 7 Feb (AFP)—In an interview with a private television channel, "Subcommander Marcos," military leader of the Zapatista rebels in Chiapas, Mexico, has stressed that the Zapatist guerrillas have "forced the government to hold a dialogue."

"As never before, now that the dialogue is going to be held, the Zapatist Army needs civilian society," the subcommander said in a lengthy interview to be aired tonight, part of which was published in advance by the newspaper EL PAIS.

Marcos added, "The door to dialogue was finally opened at a decisive moment—the moment when the federal government realized that the annihilation of our forces was, in the best of all cases, highly unlikely, and, in reality, impossible."

He said that despite everything, the Zapatists oppose holding the dialogue in the jungle, "because if Camacho (Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis) enters the jungle and something happens to him—in other words, if they do something to him—they are going to say it is our fault." Marcos went on to lament, "We cannot guarantee security here—neither Camacho's nor Don Samuel's (Chiapas Bishop Samuel Ruiz)."

Marcos also explained the majority of the guerrillas come from the jungle and the mountains. "For the comrade peasants, the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] was created as a self-defense force against the white guards of the ranch owners."

According to Marcos, the insurgents view the armed struggle "as part of a broader and more complex process that could have profound consequences." He clarified that at no time "has there been any support, not even blessing or approval by anyone from the Catholic Church." He also denied there was foreign support: "We do not think like the Maoists who believe that a peasant army, coming from the mountains, will besiege the cities." He added, "Our comrades only speak of autonomy, such as that of the Basques or Catalonians (in Spain), which is a relative autonomy."

The guerrilla leader also said, "We believe that large-scale military intervention against us is very unlikely." He concluded: "The federal government is the one that is worried. We think it is premature to speak of a U.S. intervention."

## EZLN Lifts Veto on Azteca's Coverage of Peace Talks

*PA0702144494 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1321 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[From the "Good Morning from Mexico" newscast]

[Text] A few minutes ago, we received a letter addressed expressly to Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network, signed by insurgent Subcommander Marcos. I will read it quickly for our viewers.

Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network, News Directorate, Federal District of Mexico, from Insurgent Subcommander Marcos, Indian Revolutionary Clandestine Committee-General Command [CCRI-CG] of the EZLN [Zapatist Army of National Liberation], mountains of southeastern Chiapas, Mexico.

Gentlemen, a few minutes ago I was informed that on Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network's [3 February] evening newscast, a letter from reporter Francisco Rubio, who works for the station, was read. The letter was addressed to the EZLN and explained the events that occurred while he was covering the area under our forces' control. The letter explained the circumstances surrounding the offer to pay members of the EZLN in exchange for their statements.

With the approval of the CCRI-CG of the EZLN I hereby state the following:

1. The CCRI of the EZLN is satisfied with the explanation given by reporter Francisco Rubio, hails Mr. Rubio's attitude and that of Azteca's news directorate for broadcasting it, and is pleased that this regrettable misunderstanding has been clarified.

2. The CCRI of the EZLN is lifting its veto on Azteca Television's coverage of the peace and reconciliation talks between Mr. Manuel Camacho Solis and the EZLN, with the mediation of Mr. Samuel Ruiz Garcia.

3. The EZLN hereby declares it will grant Azteca Television reporters and envoys, including Mr. Francisco Rubio, accreditation to coverage the event without any problem whatsoever. The EZLN will do all it can to facilitate their journalistic work within the territories under our control.

4. The EZLN hereby declares that if it is possible, it will be glad to meet with reporters from Azteca Television and other news media mentioned in its 29 January 1994 communique.

[Signed] Insurgent Subcommander Marcos, 3 February 1994.

## EZLN Communique Requests Peace Cordons

*PA0702163794 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 7 Feb 94*

["Text" of communique issued by the Indian Revolutionary Clandestine Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] to all nongovernment organizations and signed by Subcommander Marcos on 1 February; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Indian Revolutionary Clandestine Committee-General Command of the EZLN respectfully addresses you all to make a polite request. As everyone knows, the initiation of the peace dialogue between Mr. Manuel Camacho Solis and the EZLN is imminent. The fact that the dialogue is being held in a conflict area implies provocation risks that could hinder or bog the talks down.

With the purpose of minimizing unwanted rifts between the parties in conflict, it is necessary to form around the talk site a security or peace cordon, which can prevent the pressure or intimidation of one of the parties in conflict. We know the so-called nongovernment organizations have remained neutral in the present conflict, and they have always been concerned about the need to alleviate the serious conditions of the civilian population as well as to promote the peace efforts with dignity as sought by our forces and all honest Mexicans.

For the reasons mentioned above, we would like to respectfully ask you to form a peace cordon that can prevent both federal troops as well as those from the EZLN from meddling in the region surrounding the negotiation table. Let it be understood that this does not represent any commitment or support for our struggle's cause, and that we will continue to respect and greet your neutrality and humanitarian duty.

## Possible Sites for Peace Talks, Security Cordons

*PA0702151094 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Report by Raul Rodriguez and Samuel Prieto in Chiapas State from the "Good Morning from Mexico" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Rodriguez] The place and date for the peace talks have not been confirmed yet as some security and logistics problems are still pending. It seems, however, the meeting will not take place in Ocosingo or Las Margaritas, bastions of the Zapatist National Liberation Army, EZLN.

On 6 February, well-informed sources mentioned two possible sites: Palenque, located approximately 200 km from San Cristobal de las Casas, which has good access roads, or Comitan, located approximately 80 km from San Cristobal de las Casas, an area with a great degree of EZLN influence.

In the early hours of 6 February, EZLN communiques were received in San Cristobal de las Casas demanding the establishment of security cordons by nongovernmental human rights organizations to provide more guarantees. Here is the reply given by Gerardo Pacheco, representative of the nongovernmental human rights organizations.

[Pacheco] We are now in the initial process of reviewing the possibilities of establishing security cordons. Right now we are trying to adequately interpret the letter addressed to us, after which we will decide how we will give the necessary support to the proposed security cordons. We are also waiting for reactions from nongovernmental human rights organizations in other parts of the country, as the letter is addressed to all Mexican nongovernmental human rights organizations. In that manner, we can organize and coordinate efforts to make possible the creation of security cordons providing specific guarantees proposed by the EZLN.

[Prieto] International Red Cross representative Maria Lude explained the Red Cross' role in establishing buffer zones in areas where the communities are becoming desperate. The creation of the so-called buffer zones in the Chiapas highlands has created some confusion among the people regarding the International Red Cross' role.

[Lude] I will take this opportunity to explain the International Red Cross Committee's role. As I said, our main concern—and this is how we operate in all countries—is finding out what the main needs are. Our representatives are now in the area, evaluating the people's needs, and if necessary they will propose ways to provide assistance. At the same time, there is a great solidarity movement in Mexico toward that zone. In no way will we prevent Mexicans from helping Mexicans. Our role will be limited, as I said, to reopening those areas, after which we will let national institutions do the work. I really do not think national institutions need our presence to carry out their work once the situation returns to normal.

In the past, it was confirmed they are efficient institutions, and if they really have the necessary assistance, we are not the ones to decide if people should or should not receive assistance by the Mexican people. What we will do is to work based on the people's needs, which is our policy. Once the zone is reopened, organizations willing to help can take over.

[Prieto] The entry of the International Red Cross Committee in the buffer zones does not mean all nutritional and medical problems will be resolved.

[Rodriguez] Sunday, 6 February was a normal day in San Cristobal and nearby communities. Apparently, everything was calm in the Chiapas highlands.

## Costa Rica

### Radio Updates Vote Count in Presidential Election

*PA0702175994*

[Editorial] San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1656 GMT on 7 February broadcasts a two-minute report that says "as of 0300 [0900 GMT] on 7 February" the vote count in the nation's presidential election stood at 717,313 votes for National Liberation Party (PLN) candidate Jose Maria Figueres Olsen and 686,997 votes for Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC) candidate Miguel Angel Rodriguez, giving Figueres a 30,316-vote lead in a race in which 1,428,034 votes had been counted.

The report also says, "The total number of polling tables already counted are 8,106, with only 257 still pending." The report adds that vote counting has been suspended and will resume at 0800 (1400 GMT) on 8 February. No figures are given for Democratic Force presidential candidate Miguel Salguero or National Independent Party candidate Jorge Gonzalez.

### Figueres Reaffirms Commitment to Campaign Promises

*PA0702195994 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] Jose Maria Figueres gave his first news conference as president-elect of Costa Rica and reiterated his commitment to the needy, stating that his government will focus primarily on strengthening social programs. He added, however, that socioeconomic programs are two sides of the same coin as one cannot be separated from the other. He reiterated that during his administration important [word indistinct] will be made for the agriculture sector, as well as for small and medium producers, who will grow stronger as they are given the necessary resources.

Women will also play a leading role in the policies of the coming National Liberation Party administration. Figueres stated that his government will continue its efforts in the health and education sectors. He also reiterated his support for private education but added that public education must be improved to keep it at the same level as private education [words indistinct].

Figueres said very significant trade relations will be generated with various nations with which current relations are maintained. Figueres said he will respect international financial organizations and international economic policies. However, he reiterated that his government does not approve of the (?third) structural adjustment program in its current form and said it must undergo several changes so it does not harm the country's less fortunate sectors.

Here is an excerpt of Jose Maria Figueres' statements at the Hotel Costa Rica:

[Begin Figueres recording] I am happy and very grateful for the trust and affection expressed by the Costa Rican people, a majority of whom voted for the National Liberation Party and allowed us to win the elections and to win in Congress. I am certain they will allow us to win a majority in the municipalities throughout the nation.

I think there were certain factors that could have caused objections to the final election results. Starting early in the afternoon I perceived an air of triumph among the National Liberation Party family when party members were saying we had won all across the nation. Some started to celebrate before the final results were in. You are the best witnesses that throughout the afternoon we used the media many times to urge people not to celebrate in advance and to work until 1800 or until we obtained [words indistinct].

In any case, I want to reiterate my appreciation for the trust placed in us to fulfill the commitments we made during the campaign. It is time to leave differences aside, to unite the Costa Rican family, and to meet the goals we have set. [end recording]

### Calderon Congratulates Figueres on Election Win

*PA0702223894 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2043 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] San Jose, 7 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon said today that his successor, Jose Maria Figueres, will receive a country in better shape than he did in 1990, because poverty has been reduced and economic growth has increased.

After congratulating Figueres on his election victory over Social Christian Miguel Angel Rodriguez in yesterday's elections, the president noted that "we have a country with the highest growth in Latin America" (6.5 percent last year), which has reduced poverty from 23 to 17 percent and has brought the fiscal deficit under control, according to official figures. "I feel that the new president will bring his own ideas to the government and will have his focus, but it is very unlikely that the trend toward national unity will be broken," declared the head of state, who will surrender power on 8 May.

According to Calderon, the fiscal deficit projected for this year—1.5 percent of the GDP—is five times less than that for 1990, when he assumed office from social democrat Oscar Arias, a fellow party member of Figueres. The president explained he hopes to meet in the next few days with Figueres to begin the transition process.

Calderon, 44, and Figueres, 39, are two of the youngest presidents in Costa Rican history. They are both sons of two of the most prominent leaders and former presidents the country has had in this century, Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia (1940-44) and Jose Figueres (1948-49, 1953-58, and 1970-74). The two former presidents were adversaries in a civil war in which the father of the next

president of Costa Rica came out victorious and which marked the beginning of the model democracy this country has today.

### Niehaus Protests U.S. Blockade Against Cuba

*PA0602131694 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1932 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] San Jose, 5 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus today said the U.S. blockade against Cuba "is not the proper medicine" to get this country to return to a democratic system. According to Niehaus, a candidate for post of OAS secretary general, "bloodshed" has to be avoided in Cuba, and a change in Cuba's current political system—a system that has been in place for more than 30 years—has to be achieved through dialogue and respect for the people's self-determination.

The head of Costa Rican diplomacy said: "None of us want our Cuban brothers to shed one drop of blood. We have to talk to them to avoid this. They are part of the American family that is outside" the OAS because of the isolation decreed against it by the organization in the 1960's.

Nevertheless, Niehaus warned that for Cuba to be readmitted as a member of the American community of nations, it has to respectfully adhere to the principles of the OAS Charter and to the defense of human rights. In this sense, the foreign minister said, he agreed that Cuba should not be invited to any American Summit—the next summit has been scheduled in the United States at the end of 1994—until a democratic change takes place on the island governed by Fidel Castro, the Marxist leader who took power in the 1959 revolution.

According to Niehaus, had Western Europe isolated the Soviet Union, "we would still have the USSR." In this way, he reiterated that it was counterproductive to continue using the method of isolation to achieve change in Cuba. Regarding the renewal of relations between Cuba and Costa Rica, which were broken off more than 30 years ago, Niehaus said this is not the only way to get closer to the Havana regime, and he added that Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon was the one who had to ultimately decide this issue.

Today Niehaus met with foreign reporters covering Costa Rica's electoral process that ends tomorrow with the election of a new president, two vice presidents, 57 deputies, and authorities for the 81 Costa Rican municipalities.

## El Salvador

### Guatemalan Rebel Commanders Meet With Onusal Chief

*PA0802043894 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[From the "Facing the Moment" newscast]

[Text] A high-level Guatemalan guerrilla commission met with Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, the UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal] mission chief this morning. The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] delegation was headed by Commanders Gaspar Ilom and Pablo Monsanto and members of the rebel diplomatic commission.

Augusto Ramirez Ocampo reported that the URNG delegation had come to learn of the role played by the United Nations in the verification of the Salvadoran peace process. On his part, Commander Rodrigo Asturas, alias Gaspar Ilom, said the agreement signed by the URNG and the Guatemalan Government on 10 January, allowed them to anticipate a positive future for the negotiations.

[Begin Asturias recording] [Words indistinct] specially significant to us, especially based on our evaluation of the Salvadoran negotiations and peace process. At the same time, we wanted to verify, in situ, the United Nations' weight in this peace process. In our case, we asked for UN participation as soon as we initiated talks in Guatemala. We ratified our request in the agreement signed on 10 January. We have called on the United Nations to act as a mediator in the process and this, of course, includes verification of all the agreements. [end recording]

URNG Commander Gaspar Ilom, who is the son of Miguel Angel Asturias, a nobel laureate for literature, considered that the UN experience in verifying the implementation of the agreements in El Salvador is promising. Ilom said the Guatemalan peace process will be very complicated but not, as a result of this, irresolvable. He added that they hope to reach agreements leading to peace very soon. Ilom insisted that the main points of the negotiation are to establish the role of the Army in a democratic society, the country's economic problems, and issues related to the Indian problem.

## Guatemala

### Army Rejects URNG's 'Unity and National Salvation' Proposal

*PA0702161794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2226 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Guatemala City, 2 Feb (Notimex)—Today, the Guatemalan Defense Ministry rejected the guerrillas' proposal of a "Unity and National Salvadoran" government, calling it "illogical."

The Information and Press Department of the Army (DIDE) pointed out that "the current government is democratic, and it is very difficult to accept proposals from an illegal group that is constantly breaking the law."

Nevertheless, DIDE said the Armed Forces will adhere to any decision made by General Commander and President Ramiro de Leon Carpio. It also warned that

any guerrilla position must remain within the framework of their negotiations with the government.

The rebel Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) stated in a communique released in Mexico City that the constitutional and institutional changes the country needs can only be accomplished through a "Unity and National Salvation" government.

The URNG views the approval of constitutional reforms through the referendum held last Sunday as a "failure" and pointed out that the popular consultation confirmed the government's lack of credibility and legitimacy.

The guerrilla's claims are prompted by the results of last Sunday's popular consultation, in which only 10.75 percent of the 3.4 million electorate voted to approve 37 constitutional reforms.

Vinicio Hernandez, leader of the Guatemalan Workers Trade Union, told Notimex it is impossible to establish a united government because, to begin with, the peace negotiations are being held in secret. "We believe that rapprochement efforts are very positive but if the civilian, labor, Indian, or student sectors do not participate in the dialogue we will never reach a firm agreement," Hernandez added.

The labor leader said there has been talk of an imminent signing of peace to end the 30-year armed conflict, but pacification "will not be accomplished unless there is consensus among the people who are affected."

Meanwhile, the Peasant Unity Committee (CUC) has said that as long as there is a shortage of land, housing, and health care in Guatemala, a "Unity and Salvation" government will rapidly disintegrate. CUC leader Sebastian Morales said: "as long as there is hunger, cold, disease, and human rights violations, peace will be very far away." The peasant organization said it might join the URNG's initiative as long as the solutions proposed are specific.

President Ramiro de Leon Carpio, who has not commented on the rebel statement, claims he "won" the popular consultation by a margin of seven to one votes.

According to the president, the referendum results are the first step toward ending the political crisis that was unleashed on 25 May when former president Jorge Serrano Elias, who is exiled in Panama, disrupted constitutional order.

### Army Terms Troop Movement 'Routine Military Training'

*PA0802033494 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 7 Feb 94 p 6*

[Text] Over the weekend, residents of some areas near the main exits of the capital were surprised by the movement of military trucks transporting soldiers, which was nothing more than a routine movement, military sources have confirmed.

In our editorial room, we received several telephone calls reporting the military movements.

Meanwhile, upon being asked, the Army Information and Press Department reported that normally early in every month, members of the Zavala Marshal Brigade, the Honor Guard, or La Aurora Guard, a former tactical detachment, conduct routine military training. Following the referendum on 30 January, the rumors of a possible social outbreak or, worse yet, a coup d'etat remain in the air.

Political leaders who were asked but who chose to remain anonymous said that, in reality, they were also alerted by friends or relatives of a potential military movement by the government's military leadership. One of the interviewees recalled that after the visit by U.S. Ambassador Marilyn McAfee to Foreign Minister Gladys Marithza Vielman Ruiz last Friday, rumors regarding destabilizing movements against the government have been going around, and even though they have not been confirmed, they have not been denied either.

In diplomatic circles, no opinions were given on the current situation. The ambassadors who were asked, said only that there currently is an effort under way by Guatemalans to demand respect for order and legality.

### Government Denies Coup Attempt

*PA0802035094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0218 GMT 8 Feb 94*

[Text] Guatemala City, 7 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan Government denied here today that military sectors carried out a new coup attempt in the past hours.

Presidential spokesman Felix Loarca said the rumors about top military commanders planning tactical movements to oust the former human rights ombudsman were "groundless." He said: "Ramiro de Leon is working at the presidential residence and carrying out his routine activities." "The president has reiterated that peace prevails in the country and that its institutions are stronger than ever today," he added. Loarca pointed out that the Guatemalan officers accept their role in the democratic system and that the reports are simply rumors," he pointed out. [no beginning quotation marks as received] Loarca called on the population not to pay attention to the coup rumors that attempt to destabilize the country's institutions.

This past weekend, the local PRENSA LIBRE and SIGLO VEINTIUNO morning newspapers reported on troop movements in different areas in Guatemala City. Such movements are similar to the ones that have preceded previous coups d'etat in the country.

The Defense Ministry has reported that the military movements were routine actions and reaffirmed its full support for Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon. "Our objective is to further the consolidation of the democratic process and to ensure, as the institution in

charge of the country's security and sovereignty, that institutional order is maintained," Defense Minister General Mario Enriquez stated.

On Sunday, SIGLO VEINTIUNO hinted at the possibility of "the military coup ghost in Guatemala" and advanced that "a very important general" in the Armed Forces had stated at a secret meeting that "it was impossible for a victorious Army to be led to the losers' territory." The officer, thus, referred to the president's decision to accept the presence of a UN representative at the peace negotiations with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) rebels.

According to the newspaper, if a coup d'etat occurs now, when the rebels are almost annihilated, it would give the URNG some air, mainly in the international sphere where its position has deteriorated after the fall of previous President Jorge Serrano.

In a parliamentary election early on 6 June 1993, de Leon assumed the Guatemalan presidency which was left vacant by Serrano who, after a brief self-inflicted coup d'etat, abandoned the country and took asylum in Panama.

## Panama

### PRD Presidential Candidate TV Interview

*PA0602001794*

[Editorial Report] Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish at 0200 GMT on 2 February broadcasts its regularly scheduled 60-minute weekly "Democracy 94" program which this week consists of a live interview with Ernesto Perez Balladares, presidential candidate for the Revolutionary Democratic Party, PRD, by "Democracy 94" host Hugo Enrique Famania.

Famania begins by giving the following resume: "Dr. Ernesto Perez Balladares has a Ph.D. in Economics and Business Administration from a U.S. university. He was born in Panama City on 28 June 1946 and spent most of his youth in Chiriqui Province. He was Citibank's corporate credit manager for Panama and Central America in 1971. He entered public life as a member of the Legislative Commission in 1975. Perez Balladares was minister of finance and treasury and of planning and economic policy during President Basilio Lakas' administration; President Aristides Royo kept him as minister of planning and economic policy; and President Ricardo de la Espriella appointed him general manager of IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification]. He also stands out as member of the negotiating team for the 1977 canal treaties. His political life began when the PRD was founded in 1979. He rose in this organization, which was the political arm of the military regime, and went from grass-roots group president—the lowest echelon in the party's organizational chart—to PRD general secretary in 1982. His estrangement and reserve with the party's line goes back to when Manuel Antonio Noriega was made commander of the then National Guard in 1983. His coolness increased after the 1984 elections. This attitude, however, contrasts with his decision to accept the appointment to be the campaign manager for Colina [National Liberation Coalition] presidential candidate Carlos Duque Jaen in 1989. After the 20 December 1989 U.S. military action, he assumed a more critical and active position in the PRD. He actively participated in the party's internal reorganization and won the PRD internal election to again occupy the post of general secretary in 1992. He was elected presidential candidate for the May 1994 elections at the PRD convention held on 31 July 1993, and thus became the first elected citizen to run for this position. Since then, the polls indicate that his popularity ratings have increasingly expanded and currently place him as the front runner."

After this profile, Famania asks Perez Balladares why he distanced himself from the PRD in 1983 to return later as Duque's campaign manager. He replies that the party had requested that he be Duque's campaign manager in an electoral process that was very difficult and was practically lost. He adds: "I could have refused but this would have been disloyal to my party. I assumed my responsibility at the time and absolutely do not regret anything I did." Famania asks the candidate what his position was when the military tried to cheat in the 1989 elections. Perez Balladares replies that his management of the Duque campaign ended on election day and that Duque and himself had recommended that the government "and those who gave orders at the time" accept Guillermo Endara's victory and that "Mr. Noriega try to find an honorable solution to his situation."

Famania mentions that the PRD lost the 1989 elections overwhelmingly and has now appeared, with him as a candidate, for the 1994 elections and is leading all the polls. The candidate explains that the PRD is a totally new party, which has been reorganized democratically and thus become much stronger. Famania notes that analysts have stated that the PRD has received positive poll ratings because it started campaigning before the rest of the parties. Perez Balladares laughs and says: "I believe that is wishful thinking by our opponents."

Famania recounted that the Arnulfist Party candidate has called "all the political parties to unite in a large civil alliance against the PRD" and asks Perez Balladares if he thinks such an alliance is possible. The PRD candidate says he does not know if it is possible but notes that this alliance is based on vested economic interests and "not based on programs to solve the country's problems." The candidate adds that the PRD will contend with the candidates its opponents present and that they will continue with their campaign "to explain our programs, proposals, solutions, and the opportunities we hope to offer. The Panamanians will be the ones to decide on election day."

Famania asks him if the PRD will form alliances to control the Legislative Branch and Perez Balladares

answers that the word alliance has been used in an attempt to unite forces to parcel out the country and that "what we really need is for all sectors in the country to reach a national agreement" to lead the country through the especially delicate period of the turn of the century.

Famania asks: "Don't you think the PRD's ties with the last period of the military regime could negatively impact your popularity rating?" He replies: "I believe it is evident that a return to the past, in addition to being stupid, is absurd. The immense majority of Panamanians understand this is totally impossible, even if someone, who would not be us, wanted to return to the past. We do not propose a return to any past system, but there are people who seem to be anchored to such an idea. They can only see the country as it existed in 1989. Let me tell you something: The people and country demand that we solve the problems of today, 1994, not the ones of 1989."

Famania asks Perez Balladares if he would be willing to bring Noriega back to Panama to have him complete his prison sentence here; the candidate dismisses emphatically this possibility, adding: "We have many problems to solve in the future. We have a big national challenge and cannot distract ourselves with subterfuges, such as bringing people back to the country, persecuting people, carrying out retaliations, or digging up past issues. We have much to do ahead of us. We do not have time for this."

The program host mentions that Balladares has promised to build an expressway to Colon and other works if he wins the elections and asks how he plans to finance them. The candidate answers: "They are not promises. I have presented proposals to the country. My proposals are based on the need to find quick alternatives to promptly solve our serious unemployment problem, which will be my government's number one priority." He adds: "How will they be financed? The works will be financed in the same way they have been financed by all the developing countries; the private sector and the government join efforts to carry them out. All our proposed works can be carried out effectively. I have already received concrete offers from three firms to build the Panama-Colon expressway."

Famania says it has been noted that the firm that builds the expressway will not recover its investment within the 20-year term established by the law. He asks if the PRD plans to change the laws, to which Balladares replies: "We will have to give the firm that builds the road the necessary time for it to recover its investment and make a reasonable profit." The program host asks if his government would invest in such works, and Balladares answers: "There has to be a participation. I believe the government—in the extent that we generate internal savings—will have to participate together with the private firms." Famania then asks how will the government "generate internal savings," and Perez Balladares says: "Savings are obtained with an austere government program."

Famania broaches the issue of privatization, saying the PRD maintains that public services should not be privatized. He asks: "Isn't this a bit like swimming upstream, because all the countries are privatizing their public services to make them more efficient?" Balladares says: "We say there are basic services that have to be government monopolies. One of them is the Idaan [National Water and Sanitation Institute]. I believe water is a priority item in any country and that it must be managed by the government. Another item is the distribution of electricity. There is no incentive for any private firm to implement a rural electrification program, because it is not profitable. For the government such a program is fundamental to integrate the marginal population, mostly in the interior of the Republic, to the country's development." He adds: "To talk about an out-an-out privatization process or to oppose such actions based on an ideological premise is a mistake. As a government, we have to do the things that will provide more social benefits, be it with private, public, or mixed firms."

Famania questions the benefits of having the government manage basic services, which are not offering quality service. The candidate says: "I believe some of those services can be privatized, because the government does not have the needed cash flow to increase or improve the services rendered by those institutions. Somehow, those services—especially the ones I mentioned—must continue to further national development and, thus, must be controlled by government." He adds: "Let me tell you something else: Those services are not efficient, because we made the last investments to produce water, for example. We built the Chilibre water-processing plant a long time ago. Nothing else has been done in this field. What was the last major thoroughfare built to alleviate the serious traffic problem in Panama City? It was the Tumba Muerto Avenue, which we built in 1971 or 1972, more than 20 years ago. Nothing more has been done since then."

Famania says the current economic order is different to the one that existed in the 1970's, and he asks if a PRD government will be able to build such works now. The PRD candidate emphatically answers affirmatively. "We can do so because we are creative and will involve the private sector, unions, and all public and private organizations interested in solving the country's problems," he added.

Famania asks Perez about the PRD candidates filling the ballot as presidential and vice presidential candidates—instead of "splitting the cake"—in spite of the alliance with the Labor Party, PALA, and the Liberal Party. Perez responds that the cake belongs to the Panamanian people and adds: "The fact that we have achieved an alliance or a concerted effort to be able to carry out a work program by broadening the participation to other political parties while maintaining our original proposal, clearly means that we are definitely not willing to distribute political spaces but, instead, to carry out a program for national solutions with those persons in our political group, our friends who now share with us this

concerted effort, and other sectors—independent or from other parties—who have the capacity for the job. The best men for the public offices."

Famania goes on to ask about the plans for fighting unemployment and Perez answers that the way to fight unemployment is to attack the root of the problem which, in his opinion, is the lack of proper education. Perez claims education is not currently directed at the available job market. He says they propose an integration of private enterprise with the different universities and training centers so that, and together with the Government, they can guide education toward the jobs that will be available at the beginning of the 21st century and in accordance with the demands from investors.

Then Famania says that the continuous teachers strikes will be an to that goal and Perez contends that the last teachers strike was one of the many wars caused by former Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles, of which he won none.

Perez criticizes the way the Current Government lost the golden opportunity it had for buying the foreign debt and claims his government would deal with the commercial foreign debt.

Later the two discuss the security in Panama and Perez says that for the citizens' safety there must be a professional police force and that a civilian must be kept at the head of the police force. He adds: "What happens is that, according to the very persons who have been dealing with the topic over the last four years, there has been a policy of not backing, economically—and mainly from Mr. Carles' Comptroller's Office—the professionalization programs for that police force." Famania then claims that young men do not want to be policemen due to the low salaries and Perez responds that professionalizing the police also means increasing their salaries.

Regarding the borders, Perez says the border with Colombia must be watched by a professional force to control the illegal aliens and drug trafficking.

On the subject of the defense needs of the Panama Canal in accordance with the Canal Treaties, Perez says that an army is not necessary for the defense of the Panama Canal, that such a claim "was a subterfuge used to justify the [Panama] Defense Forces [PDF] that were created. That absurd mistake cannot be committed again. We do not need that; for the protection of the Panama Canal areas we need the same type of protection used for industrial installations anywhere in the world."

Famania then asks whether he would use former officers of the PDF as advisers, and Perez says that he has said many times before that that stage is over and there is no going back. He adds: "Those officers—former officers of the Armed Forces—have every right to participate as civilians in Panama's civilian life, but they will never be reintegrated [into the armed forces]."

Famania asks about the proposal to lower the retirement age and Perez says they will study the topic and that he does not believe that it is fair that different workers have the same retirement age, particularly those whose bodies suffer greater physical wear. About political persecution Perez says he is already working on what he believes is the clue to good administration of justice: a good attorney general.

Asked about the possibility of massive layoffs, Perez says he knows the vast majority of the public workers will vote for him and that there will be no layoffs.

Finally, with regard to a political amnesty, Perez says that topic has passed to a third plane, that those who were unfairly in jail for political crimes have already been released, and that those who have been sentenced will have to serve their sentences.

Asked about his alleged renovation in spite of maintaining his ties to the same persons involved in the past regime, Perez responds that that is a false insinuation and his government would use the most capable Panamanians regardless of their political affiliation.

## Main Parties Register Candidates; Alliances 'Frustrated'

*PA0702235594 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] The main political parties today officially registered their respective presidential candidates for the elections to be held in May.

The first party to do so was the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], then the Papa Egoro Movement, the Arnulfist Party and the Liberal Party, and finally the Morena [National Renewal Movement], Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], and Civic Renewal Party.

With the registration of the candidates headed by Mireya Moscoso de Gruber on the one hand, and Ruben Dario Carles on the other, the possibility of an alliance that would group the civic [civilistas] forces that struggled against Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime has been frustrated. With these four [number as heard] slates the political panorama is clarified and the uncertainty about the presidential candidacies disappears.

Now, only the Solidarity Party and the Democratic Christian Party have yet to register their candidates. Last week, Jose Salvador Munoz registered as presidential candidate for the Doctrinaire Panamenist Party.

In accordance with the electoral scheme, there are seven candidates for president of the Republic in the first free and democratic elections to be held after over 20 years of military dictatorships.

## PDC Confirms Presidential Candidate

*PA0802012294 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Feb 94 p 1A*

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Businessman Eduardo Vallarino, who on 6 February was nominated as the presidential candidate for the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), said that today more than ever his party is united to "take the bull by the horns" [reference to presidential candidate Ernesto Perez Valladares, whose nickname is "Toro," which means bull] and to "tie the bell on the cat" [reference to presidential candidate Ruben Dario Carles, who usually wears a bow tie, or "gatito," which also means little cat].

Vallarino, who was confirmed during the PDC convention held yesterday at the Cosita Buena Ballroom, said that "there is an atmosphere that makes PDC members feel stronger than ever. I assure you that if we are united, we will take the bull by the horns and tie the bell on the cat," Vallarino stressed, receiving applause from the large crowd that filled the popular dance hall. According to Vallarino, today more than ever "the green machinery" is starting to move with all its force.

A special PDC National Congress was held yesterday to confirm Eduardo Vallarino as its presidential candidate, replacing Ricardo Arias Calderon, who declined the candidacy for health reasons. Raul Ossa and Rene Orillac were confirmed as first and second vice presidential candidates, respectively.

In a statement for the media, PDC Legislator Raul Ossa said that the PDC has now emerged as an alternative for the Panamanian people, as there is a large percentage of Panamanians who are undecided about the candidate of their preference. PDC Legislator Erick Fidel Santamaria said that although Arias Calderon is not currently leading the party, the PDC is stronger than ever today.

Eduardo Vallarino, former president of the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP) stressed the need to work hard so Panamanians "can smile again" and recover their confidence in democratic institutions. "I must say, without any doubt, that we have the necessary strength to win the May 1994 elections," he added.

Vallarino noted how important it is at this time for Panamanians to change the attitude of hopelessness and look forward to a better future. "We have a pact, which is a firm commitment with the people..." he stressed. According to Vallarino, the Panamanian people cannot go on living amid uncertainty and instability. He also urged Panamanians not to forget the actions of the past dictatorship.

## Endara Swears In New Cabinet Members

*PA0802011694 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] The new ministers of President Guillermo Endara Galimany's cabinet took office today. The ceremony took place in the Yellow Hall of the Presidential Palace in the presence of President of the Republic Guillermo Endara Galimany and Vice President Guillermo Ford.

The main changes in President Endara's work team affected the Government and Justice Ministry, the Finance and Treasury Ministry, the Labor Ministry, the Health Ministry, and the Housing Ministry. This restructuring takes place after the members of the Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] party decided not to support the Arnulfist Party's presidential candidate, Mireya Moscoso de Gruber.

[Begin recording] [Education Minister Marcos Alarcon, identified by caption] You cannot govern with your enemies. I think the president's decision was correct. He has surrounded himself with those whom he believes due to the commitment they have to the history and memory of Dr. [Arnulfo] Arias. They are willing to give the best of themselves so that President Endara's administration can end with great achievements.

[Planning and Economic Policy Minister Delia Cardenas, identified by caption] Believe me when I tell you that the president's request that I remain in my office as planning minister has definitely flattered me. And that request was made because at the Ministry we are dealing with affairs of the utmost importance for our country. [end recording]

Three members of Molirena and two Arnulfists were replaced in President Endara's government team.

Jacobo Salas was appointed to the Government and Justice Ministry; Jose Raul Mulino was appointed to the Foreign Ministry; Marcos Alarcon to the Education Ministry; Jose Antonio Dominguez to the Public Works Ministry; Victor Juliao to the Finance and Treasury Ministry; Gregorio Ordonez to the Labor Ministry; Jose Remon to the Health Ministry; Ricardo Fabrega to the Commerce and Industry Ministry; Rodrigo Sanchez to the Housing Ministry; Delia Cardenas to the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry; Cesar Pereira Burgos to the Agricultural Development Ministry; and Ivonne Young to the Presidency Ministry.

## Argentina

### Defense Minister on Purchase of Skyhawk Airplanes

*PY0802013094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1533 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Feb (NA)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion thinks that the United Kingdom "is wrong in considering" the purchase of 36 Skyhawk A-4M airplanes equipped with late-generation radars "as a conflict with Argentina."

In Camilion's opinion, the diplomatic mishaps generated by the purchase of this materiel from the United States are "artificial conflicts and a false problem," because these airplanes "do not imply any potential display of military power."

According to the minister, the U.S. decision to sell the airplanes to Argentina "was made a long time ago," but it was postponed given "the strong opposition expressed by the United Kingdom before all levels of the U.S. Government."

"Thus, the Western countries' arms embargo on Argentina has ended, except for the United Kingdom," the defense minister told EL CRONISTA newspaper.

Camilion said that during his last trip to the United States he told former U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin that "it is incomprehensible" that the UN Security Council of which the United Kingdom and the United States are key members should ask for "Argentina's participation in peace missions and at the same time apply an arms embargo on it."

Camilion said that Argentina "never intended to fight with anyone over this operation which, from the military point of view, is not very important because the airplanes will be used to train pilots."

When asked about his expectations regarding the British reaction, Camilion said that the United Kingdom "has more diplomatic experience than any other" country and that Argentina "must maintain the good level of dialogue through diplomatic channels in its claim for the Malvinas."

As for the reasons that led Argentina to buy these airplanes if there is no possibility of an armed conflict here, the minister said that states "are security organizations that require a minimum deterrent capability in case of possible aggressions."

He also said that some additional credits will be left over from the purchase of the Skyhawks and they will be used this year to purchase a nonpolluting naval unit to operate in the Antarctic zone.

## Brazil

### U.S. Accusations of Resumed Trade Protectionism Studied

*PY0702133094 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Feb 94 Section 1 p 11*

[Article by Carlos Eduardo Lins Da Silva]

[Text] The Brazilian Government last night studied the suitability of answering the declarations of U.S. Trade Deputy Secretary Jeffrey Garten at the World Trade Center in Miami. Garten said Itamar Franco's administration is "resuming trade protectionist practices."

Garten mentioned two areas (telecommunications and informatics) where this protectionism is, in his opinion, more obvious. He also cast doubts on the chances for success of Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso's economic programs, although he recognized Brazil's "potential." He added that the country's economic future is full of "uncertainties."

Garten's speech comes during a week when relations between Brazil and the United States are affected by friction in various points. Talks on the issue of intellectual property rights continue in Washington and there are good possibilities the United States will apply commercial sanctions against Brazil on 28 February unless there is an unexpected and radical change in Brazil's policies on the issue before then.

Brazilian Ambassador to Washington Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima is in Brasilia. He delivered a personal message from U.S. Trade Representative Michael Kantor, with whom the ambassador talked on Friday [not further specified] about the issue, to Minister Celso Amorim.

The harsh Planalto Palace note of 2 February answering the State Department report on human rights in 193 countries continues to have bad repercussions in the U.S. Government, where many people think the study has even been soft on Brazil.

Despite the difficulties, the Brazilian Government thinks the strategy of swiftly and harshly answering any attack against the country is proving to be appropriate and must be maintained. The most recent example of the success of a quick answer was World Bank President Lewis Preston's letter to Ambassador Flecha de Lima regretting "the embarrassment" provoked by criticism against a Bank of Brazil's vice president, which was rejected in harsh and unusual terms by the ambassador on 31 January.

### Foreign Minister Criticizes U.S. Embargo Against Cuba

*PY0702142594 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 4 Feb 94 p 2*

[Text] AGENCIA BRASIL reported that Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, indirectly referring to the United

States, yesterday criticized the adoption of unilateral measures by some countries "without respect for international law and to the detriment of the development of countries such as Brazil and Cuba [no closing quotation mark as published]. The foreign minister said Brazil refuses "to admit the imposition of other countries' laws" within its territory, alluding to the Torricelli Law which punishes U.S. companies that do business with Cuba, even though they are subsidiaries installed in other countries.

Amorim's observations came during a speech at a lunch offered in honor of Cuba's Vice President Carlos Lage who began a two-day visit to Brasilia today. Amorim expressed hope that the political changes being implemented in Cuba today will "help to facilitate, as we all wish, Cuba's full reinsertion in the hemisphere's coexistence."

The Brazilian foreign minister said Brazil and Cuba can join forces "to overcome our weaknesses," citing as examples the benefits that might be derived from the recent bilateral agreement for the purchase of medicines in Cuba; exchanges in the agroindustrial field, particularly on sugar and alcohol; and bilateral scientific and technical cooperation.

The Cuban vice president said that during his conversation with Amorim the Brazilian foreign minister reiterated Brazil's position against the U.S. embargo on Cuba. "The embargo has caused our country many difficulties and it is important that it is rejected by all Latin American countries," Carlos Lage said.

### Editorial Views Lifting of U.S. Embargo on Vietnam

*PY0702160394 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Feb 94 p A3*

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "The End of the Vietnam Era"]

[Text] The U.S. Senate last week approved a resolution urging President Bill Clinton to normalize economic ties with Vietnam. The proposal was submitted by a Vietnam war veteran and prisoner of war, and supported by other senators who are also Vietnam war veterans. Because the resolution was a mere recommendation, it was believed that it would be merely another step in the process of normalizing U.S.-Vietnamese ties, which has been dragging since 1991. Extremely propitious conditions—particularly the insignificant opposition of groups demanding the identification and location of those soldiers missing in action in Vietnam—allowed President Bill Clinton a few days later to lift to commercial embargo in force for 19 years.

In fact, the timetable established by the Bush administration to normalize U.S.-Vietnamese diplomatic ties is being fulfilled. One year ago, Vietnamese authorities helped to locate those missing in action and as a result of the Vietnamese troops withdrawal, Cambodia was able to hold elections. Thus the international and domestic prerequisites the U.S. Government announced as essential for normalizing its ties with Vietnam were met.

The process was delayed because of the action of outspoken veteran groups, which have important electoral clout, that were dissatisfied with the almost insignificant progress to locate the almost 2,300 soldiers missing in action. One of the remaining myths of the war is that U.S. prisoners are still kept in concentration camps, which is like saying that the fictitious Rambo films are true.

Once the precautions of election year were left behind, reason and business prevailed. Vietnam is a rapidly growing market of 70 million people offering good business opportunities that were previously denied to U.S. manufacturers. The Vietnamese market grows 8 percent per year and the socialist rigors applied to the economy have almost been nonexistent since the end of the 1980's. These considerations weighed heavily on President Bill Clinton's decision. It is true that Clinton can only lift the embargo now that the painful "Vietnam drama"—the feeling of self-inflicted defeat that undermined U.S. pride for two decades—is already part of the past.

By allowing the normalization of business ties—diplomatic ties will be restored shortly through which Vietnam will have a more favorable status which in turn will promote trade—President Clinton ends a stage in history that enables the world to know the true limits of power and force and opens a stage of business cooperation that will benefit all involved nations.

### Finance Minister Addresses Nation

*PY0702234594 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2150 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Address to the nation by Brazilian Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso from Planalto Palace in Brasilia on 7 February—recorded]

[Text] Good evening ladies and gentlemen. In view of an inflation rate of nearly 40 percent per month and the difficulties being faced by the Brazilian people, the government has sent to Congress an economic plan to defeat inflation.

This plan has three stages: first, it adjusts the government's own accounting, reduces expenditures, and balances the budget; second, it creates a stable monetary index, which is known as the Real Value Unit, or URV, to adjust the prices of our economy; third, it transforms this index into a new national currency, which will be strong and guaranteed by the Central Bank, thus reestablishing our currency's credibility and defeating inflation.

Since my installation at the head of the Finance Ministry, I have insisted that we should not fool the country by skipping stages. We must first balance our budget. Unless we do that, it will be impossible to definitively force inflation down. To put a decisive end to inflation, the government cannot spend more than it possesses. Otherwise, it will have to resort to the banks and ask for

loans or issue money and, as a result, we will have more and more inflation. This is a simple accounting rule: If I have 100, how can I spend 150? If I spend more than I have, I will have to get money to cover the difference. When the government prints money, it is the people who have to pay for it. There is no doubt about that. When the inflation rate is high, the common people lose more. The common people who have no deposit accounts in the banks or even the possibility of having a savings passbook are more affected because they have no way to defend themselves from currency devaluation. They become poorer by the day. President Itamar Franco's administration is doing its best to balance its expenses and defeat inflation.

My friends, in this year's budget, the government reduced the expenditures of the administrative machinery and its investments by nearly 40 percent. We have also succeeded in doing something that the pessimistic people declared to be impossible: states and counties have reached agreements with the federal government and are paying their debts in accordance with the rules established by Congress. We must also mention our stern fight against tax evasion, which has already yielded concrete results. We have put an end to tax havens and the privileges of those whose accounts had never been investigated. Despite all these efforts, however, we still need billions of real cruzeiros to be able to obtain a zero deficit in our public accounts. Worst than that, reducing expenses is not enough, because the Federal Government is forced to give most of its revenue to the governments of the states and counties and to finance other expenses contemplated in the Constitution. Out of each 100 real cruzeiros collected by the Federal Government, 80 are already earmarked for mandatory obligations. Only 20 are left to pay for all government expenses, which include health assistance, the antifamine fight, transportation, agriculture, science and technology, and other indispensable programs. How can we balance our expenses? How can we defeat inflation? Society is tired of paying taxes because most of the taxes are unfairly paid by the poor instead of by the wealthy people.

This is why the government has proposed a constitutional amendment creating the Social Emergency Fund [FSE]. The FSE will help distribute the national resources better. It will not force us to make new expenditures. It will be used to finance the social programs that cannot, and should not, be subjected to more cutbacks. Unless we have this fund, the government will continue to make debts to cover essential expenditures, as we did in December, when we issued certificates for more than $1 billion—with interest rates of real 25 percent per year—to pay for our debts to hospitals and other social programs.

Most of the estimated $16 billion required by the FSE, will result from reallocation of resources. Only $3 billion, i.e. nearly 20 percent of the FSE, will result from tax hikes. This increase is indispensable to cover urgent expenses. Who will pay for it? Those who have more; those who make more than 5 million real cruzeiros per month; the financial institutions, which will pay 30 percent more of their profit in social contributions; the upper middle class members, whose income tax will be increased by well below 2 percent; and the banks, which are not contributing to the PIS [Social Integration Program], and will have to do so from now on.

This tax effort will not affect either the workers or most of the middle class. We are trying to make inflation stop being a tax that affects the poor to become a tax on the wealthy. Even so, there are always demagogues who contend that the government is merely increasing taxes without cutting its expenses.

Let us speak clearly and without protocol: without the FSE, it will be impossible for us to fight the worst of all taxes; that is, inflation. The government is convinced that this program is the best way to achieve the desired stability and to ensure a sustained economic growth.

Yet, only together and acting in partnership—society, government, and Congress alike—will we be able to overcome the difficulties.

The government neither can nor wants to impose its program on the Congress. Most of the economic plans implemented by previous governments—most of them containing shock measures, confiscations, and freezes—had been endorsed by the Congress practically without disputes.

Today, fortunately, the Congress is not acting that way because democracy entails participation. Nor does our program have characteristics similar to those implemented in the past. Never before has a Brazilian finance minister conferred so much with members of Congress to effect the approval of an economic plan.

I held lengthy talks with my congressional counterparts. I accepted good suggestions. I made as many concessions as I could as long as it would not be detrimental to our proposal of approving a zero deficit budget.

I agreed to avoid touching the resources of state governments and municipal governments because they need these resources. I did what I could. I pushed my possibilities to the limit.

What is going to be voted on this week is the result of this extensive negotiation. A joint effort has been made by the government and the Congress itself.

The Congress must now make a decision, not because the government wants it to do so, but because Brazil is in a hurry. We again grew in 1993 and we should increase even more in 1994. By making adjustments, the private sector of our economy has made progress. Industrial production grew by 9 percent in 1993. Our exports totaled nearly $39 billion and our trade balance yielded a $13 billion surplus. Salaries increased by more than 10 percent and employment rose by 3 percent. Our country's international reserves today stand at more than $33 billion, a record figure.

Our foreign debt to private banks, the negotiations of which must be concluded by 10 March, does not exceed $35 billion. The inflow of foreign resources into our financial market was more than $12 billion. We have also received $1.3 billion as direct investments. Foreign investors have given a vote of confidence to Brazil. Yet, much remains to be done.

We must yet implement constitutional revisions in the area of taxation, social security, and we must redefine the powers of the state governments, of municipal governments, and of the Federal Government, just to mention a few examples.

These are fundamental changes that are needed to once and for all balance the government's accounts. We must yet implement a broader privatization program—I am fighting for this—in order to consolidate our economic stabilization.

There is a major contradiction today in Brazil. The Congress and other sectors agree on the need to stop inflation and to implement constitutional reforms, but there are still those who are objecting to these necessary measures. Some members of liberal blocs want constitutional revision, but they disagree with aspects of our economic program. Progressive blocs partially support the economic program, but they do not want a constitutional revision. Many people advocate the market and free enterprise, but they do not stop pressuring government coffers. They want freedom, but they are afraid of competition and risks.

Some of them talk about downsizing the state, but they are vulnerable to pressure groups that are contrary to streamlining the state apparatus. There are others who boycott privatizations and advocate a misguided nationalism by defending stagnant monopolies, even those in nonstrategic areas. They are capable of asking and demanding, but they fail to discharge their responsibilities.

Today, Brazil clearly needs everyone to assume his share of responsibility. As President Itamar Franco said: Governability is a responsiblity for each and everyone of us. Either changes pick up momentum now or it will not occur any time soon. The Congress, which through congressional investigating committees is making politics credible again, must act responsibly in the economic area. Congress must decide. It must say yes or no. It must neither fail to act nor postpone its decision.

If Congress does not agree with the proposed plan, let it turn it down, because there will always be those who may look for alternate courses.

If Congress approves the entire program as submitted, a huge task will be awaiting the finance minister. Our people have always excelled for their patience, but our country can no longer wait. Each of us is responsible for making decisions and for acting in a timely manner, both in the government and in Congress. Brazil is in a hurry and the government is prepared to act.

Thank you and good night.

## Cuba Offers Generic Medicines in Exchange for Debt

*PY0702173594 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Feb 94 p A15*

[Text] Brasilia—The Cuban Government will sell Brazil $30 million in generic medicines that will arrive in the country between 30 and 60 days. This commercial agreement will be used to pay part of the Cuban debt with Brazil, which totals $48 million. This was reported by Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage D'Avila, who is visiting Brazil to negotiate investment strategies in the country.

Lage met yesterday with President Itamar Franco and with Health Minister Henrique Santillo. Lage stated that Cuba is able to supply several medicines to Brazil at good prices. He said Cuba can sell Brazil generic medicines, like antibiotics and anesthetics.

Carlos Lage explained that the Cuban Government is "patiently" awaiting the Brazilian discussion over the effectiveness of the antimeningitis meningococcic B-type vaccine produced in Cuba. "We are aware this issue is being thoroughly discussed in Brazil but I would like to remind everyone that we are the scientific proof of the vaccine's effectiveness."

## President Franco's Aide Views Crisis Within Government

*PY0802025294 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Feb 94 p 19*

[From the "Economic Panorama" column by Miriam Leitao]

[Text] According to one of President Itamar Franco's frequent advisers and interlocutors, Planalto Palace views the current crisis as follows:

Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso is admirable. He has fought courageously. "He has been a man of dialogue" but he should have submitted to Congress a permanent reform and not a provisional measure on reducing cuts on taxes collected by states.

The economic team is highly criticized. There are "philosophical conflicts among them" said the presidential adviser adding ironically: "You cannot put too many peacocks in one room because they are unable to show off their feathers."

If Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso leaves the government, there will be chaos with an escalation of the inflation rate, falls in the stock markets, and recession.

The Federal Revenue Department secretary "is good at collecting taxes" but because of ethics, he cannot be finance minister. The presidential adviser said: "He

would not have sufficient elbowroom which would transform his administration into a permanent arm wrestling match with powerful businessmen."

Professor Mario Henrique Simonsen's warnings to the effect that the stage in which the URV [Real Value Unit] will serve as the economy's leading reference index should be skipped are being studied.

Accusations heaped on Congress over the last few days have been exaggerated. The finance minister's party [Brazilian Social Democracy Party, PSDB] is also blamed, especially [Ceara] Governor Ciro Gomes [PSDB]—"an impulsive man." Moreover, the whole government is blamed for paying no heed to "the silent majority in Congress" made up by deputies who are totally ignored by ministers, even when the former's requests do not involve an increase in government spending.

The blame for the passing of the decree on the agricultural debt is mainly laid on government leaders in Congress and parliamentary advisers. "No minister or president is omniscient. They must be kept informed by government leaders and advisers about projects that are of interest to the government."

### Orestes Quercia Launches Presidential Candidacy

*PY0702171894 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Feb 94 p 5*

[Text] Sao Paulo—Former Governor Orestes Quercia yesterday launched his candidacy for the nomination by the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] convention as the party's presidential candidate, thus openly entering the presidential race. Quercia talked with PMDB party president Deputy Luiz Henrique da Silveira (SC) [Santa Catalina] and with Deputy Tarciso Delgado (MG) [Minas Gerais], the PMDB leader in the Chamber of Deputies. He told them that the talks between the two leaders of the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] and PDT [Democratic Workers Party] in search of an alliance are valid, but argued that the party must have its own candidate.

"If other parties want to support the PMDB candidate, fine," the former governor and former PMDB president said.

Quercia said it is important to achieve unity around one candidate, and without feeling intimidated suggested a PMDB convention or a primary to chose its candidate, in case someone else wants to represent the PMDB at the presidential race

He said that he is a PMDB soldier, that he will participate in an election by the convention and win it. The ideal thing is to get consensus. He said that if it is not possible we should have a convention. At a convention, as the saying goes, the most powerful cries least. He added that whoever has the force and support will become the candidate. We could also have a primary. A person who fails to win a primary cannot be any party's candidate.

Quercia said he has taken the initiative to begin preparing a development project for the country. He criticized the PT [Workers Party] government program, characterizing it as "outdated," poked fun at Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury's ambition to become a PMDB candidate, and again criticized Itamar Franco's administration characterizing it as "weak and incompetent."

"The government must have the necessary political force in Congress to have its programs approved," Quercia said.

## Colombia

### Gaviria Defends Presence of U.S. Troops in Juanchaco

*PA0802010394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Feb 94*

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] One day before the State Council has the last word on the controversial presence of U.S. soldiers in Juanchaco, President Cesar Gaviria admitted that a blunder occurred but that he will not back down.

The president this afternoon said that the soldiers building a school in Juanchaco will leave by the end of the month, when they will have completed their work, unless the State Council decides otherwise. Gaviria believes that his arguments are sound, however, because for over 40 years the presence of foreign military members for this or similar type of work have been based on international treaties, which the Congress approved in due course.

[Begin Gaviria recording] These are engineers who train by assisting in the construction of river outposts. We have been of the opinion that this work is useful. Our rivers have been neglected in the past for lack of control and operational capability. The Defense Ministry has always regarded the work of these types of engineers as useful. [end recording]

Gaviria admits that the country has been misinformed about this work and that the Defense Ministry failed to inform him.

[Begin Gaviria recording] In the future, this type of decision should be made by the president of the Republic, not so much from the legal standpoint, on which I think we are relatively safe, but for the practical benefit derived thereof. [end recording]

Gaviria denied the Juanchaco mission conceals a counternarcotics operation.

### Political Party Offices Bombed in Santander

*PA0702155594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1509 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] Bucaramanga (Colombia), 7 Feb (EFE)—Three people were injured today in one of four bomb attacks against four political party offices in cities in Colombia's Santander Department (in the northeast part of the country), including the department's capital of Bucaramanga, according to authorities.

Police report the explosive devices were activated by urban commando units of communist guerrillas from the National Liberation Army (ELN), which operates in Bucaramanga and the nearby towns of Giron, Floridablanca, and Piedecuesta. According to one source, three people in Giron were treated at a hospital for minor injuries they incurred in one of the blasts.

The offices that were attacked belonged to Aquiles Tores Breton, candidate for mayor of Bucaramanga; conservative candidate Jorge Humberto Mantilla; a civic movement in Giron; and Consuelo Duran de Mustafa in Piedecuesta. In December, other Santander political party offices belonging to candidates running in the 13 March congressional and municipal elections were also targets of similar bomb attacks in actions attributed to the ELN guerrillas.

### New Environment Ministry Begins Operations

*PA0802000994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[From "National" newscast]

[Excerpt] The new Colombian Environment Ministry began operations this morning with the swearing in of its first minister, Manuel Rodriguez. From now on all public works, industry, and service projects will require an environmental license.

The new ministry will enjoy super powers to protect the environment and the country's renewable natural resources. Law No. 99 of 1993, which created the new ministry, gave it police duties and the authority to impose fines on violators of environmental norms. [passage omitted]

### * Drug Money Alleged in Congressional Campaigns

#### * Cauca, Atlantic Coast Said Affected

*94P20340A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 5 Jan 94 p 5A*

[Text] The principal drug cartels are said to be financing the election campaigns of some candidates for the Congress, especially in Cauca Department.

The allegation about the influence of hot money [dinero caliente] in the political campaigns was made by Juan Jose Chaux Mosquera, currently a member of the House of Representatives.

The Liberal politician spoke with Fernando Garcia, this paper's correspondent in Popayan, and told him that in Cauca dirty money is already circulating in politics.

He lamented that several candidates for public office are accepting money from "friends of drug trafficking, which could impede peaceful debate, since it will lead to political corruption."

Although Chaux Mosquera did not reveal the list of persons aspiring to congressional office who are allegedly receiving financial backing from drug traffickers, he said it is easy to identify them since they are handing out large sums of money in northern Cauca.

In the halls of Congress there were insistent rumors during the last weeks of legislative activity that relatives of persons who have been linked to drug trafficking would be running for congressional office, especially in the Atlantic Coast region.

#### * Allegations Continue

*94P20340B Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 6 Jan 94 p 5A*

[Text] Cauca representative Edgar Papamija Diago reaffirmed yesterday that it is certain that some political campaigns in northern Cauca Department are being financed with hot money.

He said that "the consciences of many persons from several municipalities have been bought off, having in mind the 1994 election campaign."

The legislator supported the statements made by his colleague Juan Jose Chaux Mosquera who was one of the first to denounce the presence of drug money in political circles.

Papamija Diago promised to cooperate with Chaux Mosquera to investigate and reveal the names of those politicians who are buying votes, apparently with money obtained from drug trafficking.

Meanwhile, Senator Humberto Pelaez Gutierrez, a Liberal leader in northern Cauca, said that "one should bear in mind whether Congressman Chaux Mosquera made the statements while intoxicated or while sober," and Pelaez Gutierrez hopes to begin investigations aimed at clearing up such statements.

#### * Investigation Urged

*94P2340C Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 7 Jan 94 p 5A*

[Excerpt] The president of the House of Representatives Second Commission, Lucas Lebolo Conde, denounced the use of large sums of money in the political campaigns

in various municipalities of Atlantico and he said the Treasury Inspector should conduct an investigation.

The situation is so worrisome, judging from what other politicians have said, that some of them have decided to unite in a common front to defend their political territory because the money is coming from persons in other departments or outside the country.

He also asked Treasury Inspector Jorge Garcia and Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff to investigate the source of financing of the different candidates for Congress since "the fortunes spent in this department in the months of November and December are not in conformity with the stipulated legal standards for investing in campaigns." [passage omitted]

### * Senator Says Allegations 'True'

*94P20340D Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 10 Jan p 5A*

[Text] Senator Claudia Blum de Barbieri said during a trip to Leticia that "the report concerning the circulation of drug money to support political campaigns is quite true."

She noted however that to control these sources of financing, the Treasury Inspector has been reviewing the candidates' financial books. She said however: "I don't know how well they will be able to cover up the ill-gotten money." She said further that the issue of the so-called hot money is not a new one since that money has been around for some time, especially in Valle Department.

### * Editorial Views Allegations

*94P20340E Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR 8 Jan 94 p 2A*

[EL ESPECTADOR editorial: "Politics Heats Up"]

[Text] As was the case approximately 10 years ago, when drug trafficking money invaded election campaign coffers, the issue of the influence of drug money in politics is being stirred up again. Not because of a whim of those who valiantly denounce an act which is so abominable, but because there are indications—which perhaps could not be fully proven—of the intimate association, murky and punishable by law, between unscrupulous politicians and traffickers who seek support from persons in a position to decide the fate of many things. If Juan Jose Chaux and Lucas Lebolo Conde stated that certain aspirants in their departments have an abundance of money at their disposal, it is because—in the absence of tracks which all those involved seek to erase—the millions which finance the politicians are circulating and thus ensure loyalty to the generous donor.

It is said there will be filters to prevent what is already a shameful reality for our parties, and that the controls will prevent those Colombians, who more than anyone else should preserve their political and moral transparency, from being bribed on a continuing basis. But for some time now we've talked of these things—of strict vigilance over the financial records and resources of these coffers—but the evil of the surreptitious and corrupting influence of this illicit traffic has not abated. On the contrary, its harmful effects persist and we see situations which bring dishonor to a political tradition of which we were proud. What occurred with extradition in the Constitutional Congress and now, in recent times, with the confiscation of property obtained as a result of drug trafficking are two dishonorable chapters which are a confusing mixture of vanity and cowardice.

It is not sufficient to have dismantled the infrastructure of a powerful cartel, nor to have eliminated its most prominent godfathers and capo regimes in order to reverse the unhealthy penetration of their harmful practices—from the bribing of consciences to indiscriminate or selective terrorist acts. Other less bloody, but nonetheless criminal and corrupting organizations, seek similar ends. Though they may use greater discretion, the attack on morality and on good political and administrative practices is of equal or greater magnitude.

It is no secret to anyone that there are cartels and independent traffickers throughout the breadth and length of Colombia. What's more, in every city in Valle Department there is a drug "trust" [preceding word in English] with a commander and troops. In the coastal region, the same thing. In Medellin, there is still a considerable presence. In Bogota, an old organization has lowered its profile, but has not ceased to defend its power. And even in jungle regions where the growth of businesses in many products attracts the voracity of the traffickers, very rich and powerful groups have formed which are independent of those operating in some of its municipalities and which continue to maintain an understanding with politicians in order to put themselves out of harm's way with regard to official action, whenever they need a favor from someone in public office, at whatever level.

As is evident, the above statements must be a cause of concern to public opinion and to the sectors of the country which vigorously reject the deterioration of our political class and its permeability to money derived from the deepest depths of crime. Criticisms such as those made by Enrique Gomez against the council members in Cartagena, and on which he will now expand citing new motives, as EL ESPECTADOR anticipated, reassure Colombians who view with alarm the increase of immoral activity by public officials in Congress, the assemblies, and the councils.

Together with the majority of our compatriots, we cherish the hope that those promised filters for the upcoming campaigns function effectively, and that the party leaders contribute, with a scrupulosity that will benefit the campaigns, so that the authorities feel the incentive of some political organizations prepared to rescue public life from the mire of concupiscence and not to serve as accomplices, out of purely electoral interests, to the owners of the putrid fiefs of our departments and

municipalities. Our democracy will have lost much if its congressmen, deputies, council members, governors, and mayors are the product of the corrupting influence of crime or the intimidation of an insurgency also corrupted by its desire for riches.

## Paraguay

### Commentary On Meaning of U.S. Military Aid

*PY0702180494 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 6 Feb 94 p 6*

[Article by Mauricio Schvartzman entitled "Computer Problems"]

[Text] It is said that a former president of a small and poor country travelled to the United States last December. Arriving in Miami, an immigration department agent—after looking through the passenger's passport and consulting the computer—asked him to wait, ordered a customs personnel to bring his suitcases and invited him to a nearby office. The visitor, somewhat alarmed, asked: "What is wrong?" The custom official explained: "Your name coincides with that of another person who appears on the screen. Moreover, he is your age—the custom official complicated matters even more so—and he is registered as a drug trafficker." The foreign visitor indignant, surprised, and desperate protested: "That cannot be." He complained: "I was president of the Republic and fought drug trafficking with the U.S. Government's cooperation. Let me phone the U.S. ambassador in my country."

The former president managed to get through: "Ambassador, I am being delayed here in Miami because the computer registers a drug trafficker with my name." He explained his problem sounding rather terrified. The ambassador confirms: "Yes, they have informed me that your name appears in the computer. It is a computer problem." The ambassador promises to do his best, saying: "We will resolve the problem."

It is said that finally after 40 minutes, or after some 90 minutes according to more exaggerated witness reports, the former president was able to comply with the immigration red tape and visit the United States under the uneasy impression that the incident, caused by who knows what, was a warning.

This anecdote is an example of the political language of "demonstrations," like military maneuvers, street demonstrations, cabinet changes, retirements, etc., whose goals—which exceed their disclosed purposes—are uncovered, sometimes correctly and others erroneously, through analysis or speculation.

The case of the former president delayed by an immigration agent reminds us of the unfulfilled promises General Andres Rodriguez—who perfectly fits the antihero in the anecdote—made to the U.S. Government about handing over the protectors of drug trafficking and dismantling their infrastructure.

If for the political process the transition meant building the legal framework of democracy to assure the free action of the political institutions and elect—based on these conditions—the first civilian president, for the U.S. Government it also meant eliminating the protection system for drug traffickers.

The United States was especially concerned about this because the transition process was begun by a totally corrupt Armed Forces whose rebellious commander presided over the Executive Branch. The proposal to "dignify" the Armed Forces by the rebels was not restricted merely, under the terms of the U.S. aid for the new government, to prohibiting military men from engaging in partisan activities, eradicating illegal activities in general, and controlling the misuse and draining of state resources, but specifically to the handing over of those who protect traffickers.

The concern was and is very logical. U.S. experts wonder if military men are capable of dignifying the Armed Forces. Who will cast the first stone? Who is clean enough of any charges, of any links, or of protecting anyone to cast the first stone? More than four years of transition government have elapsed and the strategists received the expected answer: The process to dignify the Armed Forces failed—we have the disastrous example of Colonel Gonzalez Rojas, or the replacement of General Bernal who at the time was defense minister, or the dismantling of the Antinarcotics Secretariat's leadership which greatly upset the United States; Rodriguez was supposed to have cast the first stone, but did not, he never did; and, finally, most of the members of the high command were and are trapped by links related to commitments and protection.

The responsibility for throwing the great quantity of stones that should have been cast was transferred to [President Juan Carlos] Wasmosy. Yes, to a civilian government, but under the vertical domain regarding military issues of a very ambitious general. The situation remains unchanged: The process to dignify the Armed Forces continues in the hands of the Armed Forces, but the difference is that it now has the ludicrous facade of a civilian government.

So, in view of the careful protection granted from high spheres to traffickers—detected and monitored by U.S. intelligence—it was decided to materialize a plan under which U.S. Southern Command servicemen based in Panama would build schools, water wells, health posts, and repair roads in San Pedro Department as "training for the shipment of construction material for future actions similar to the Persian Gulf War," as Ambassador Glassman explained on one occasion. Who says this project has concealed objectives? The message is clear and direct: One typical "demonstration" that the U.S. troops sometime use, when justified, is to carry out a "Persian Gulf-type" intervention in Paraguayan territory.

Everyone understood the message of the "demonstration" of the military social actions. The less discreet

commented that "there are concealed purposes," without understanding the opportuneness of the maneuver.

"There are no concealed purposes and it will benefit the country," commented others with a sense of opportuneness, thus supporting the opportunity to pressure the protectors and allowing the Armed Forces to become dignified and overcome the dispute the opposition maintains with the ambitious general. For the first time most opposition legislators applauded the arrival of U.S. troops and were willing to grant them all the privileges and immunity requested, because they have interpreted the "demonstration."

Undoubtedly some ambitious general assumed the role of protector, took it personally, and overcame Wasmosy's first impression that the South Command's offer was beneficial. So, on Wednesday, 2 February, a letter of conditions was sent to Ambassador Glassman, which he was made to sign. According to the letter, the Paraguayan Army was to participate in the joint actions, that the cost of the project had to be clearly established—Congress having approved the project it should be noted that this plan affects the nation's sovereign rights—the operation zones must be restricted, the importation of weapons restricted, detailed information of the U.S. personnel to enter the country should be disclosed, and that it should be clearly established whom will be granted privileges and immunity. Wasmosy and his subordinates have again picked up the old yankee anti-imperialist wave.

This never crossed Southern Command's mind. Glassman, taken aback by the offense, commented that "similar offers to other Latin American countries were never rejected." General Oviedo, as a champion of the national liberation, on Thursday, 3 February, asked journalists: "Do you think we would reject something that benefits the Armed Forces?" Military strategists read between lines: "The interests of the protectors?" The almost dramatic answer was: "We have withdrawn the draft bill, but beware the consequences." Watch out.

That same evening a cable television channel showed a documentary on U.S. military operations in Panama when Noriega was arrested. Was that mere coincidence or another "demonstration"?

One can expect anything if this relationship between the United States and the military leadership continues to be simply horrible. What other names and prospects will appear on the computer screens in the future?

## Peru

### High Intensity Bomb Explodes at Air Force Headquarters

*PA0702131194 Paris AFP in Spanish 1250 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] Lima, 7 Feb (AFP)—According to eyewitnesses, at least one person was killed and several injured this morning when a high intensity bomb exploded at the Peruvian Air Force headquarters in downtown Lima. According to area residents, the explosion, which took place at 0645, caused serious damage.

After half an hour no official confirmation had yet been announced.

### Police, Agents Evaluate

*PA0702140594 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1240 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[From the "Good Morning Peru" newscast]

[Text] Policemen and Special Services Unit agents are still at the site of the explosion evaluating the situation, trying to determine the exact amount of explosives that were used for the car bomb and assessing the resultant damage.

The bodies of the two newspaper and magazine distributors who were killed are still at Air Force Headquarters. They were in a light blue Datsun which bore license plates SG-6691.

I am going to speak with individuals who live across from the Air Force installations to see the condition of their homes, to ask them what they observed and how it was possible for a car bomb to explode at the headquarters. Certain residents have already informed us the explosion was possible, because at exactly 0600 the Air Force opens the street to allow vehicles to circulate freely in the area, and the subversives took advantage of that opportunity to place the car bomb.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1314 GMT on 7 February carries a 150-word report on the incident which adds: "The explosion took place on '8 July' Avenue, Santa Beatriz District. Broken glass injured an undisclosed number of pedestrians as well as individuals who were inside their homes. The explosion also damaged a bank, the Peruvian Telephone Company, and several homes. The police have made no disclosures regarding the possible perpetrators of the attack. The vehicle used for the car bomb has been described only as a Datsun."]

### Explosions at Four Bank Offices Injure 6; Bombs Defused

*PA0802042594 Paris AFP in Spanish 0303 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] Lima, 7 Feb (AFP)—At least six persons were injured Monday evening in an escalation of dynamite attacks by the Maoist Shining Path against bank offices and public entities in the Peruvian capital, police have reported.

Attacks took place earlier today when Shining Path commandos detonated a car-bomb in front of the Air Force General Command, which killed two persons and injured 15 others, in addition to causing a large amount of damage.

The evening attacks affected four bank offices, two of which are the Banco de Credito and Interbanc. The explosions injured six pedestrians and partially destroyed the facade of the offices. Special police units alerted by telephone traveled through different parts of Lima and defused packages containing explosives near two state banks. A vehicle was found in the populous Yerbateros neighborhood, east of Lima, with a homemade rocket launcher inside that was about to go off. At least five explosions were registered in the outskirt districts of San Juan de Lurigancho and Comas, according to police reports.

Police stations increased their security in light of the possibility of Shining Path attacks and police patrols in strategic areas of the capital have been doubled.

The acts of violence reported Monday coincide with leaflet advertisements, which were delivered to editorial rooms of various Lima dailies, stating that the Shining Path is preparing to launch a wave of attacks in February.

### Bomb Thrown at Local Branch of Banco de Credito

*PA0802050294 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Feb 94*

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Tonight terrorists hurled a package with explosives at the Banco de Credito branch located in Caqueta Avenue. The explosion caused minor injuries to three passersby and property damage to the bank. Other explosions were also reported tonight in Lima.

This is the fourth time subversive units have attacked the Banco de Credito located one block from Parque del Trabajo, between the districts of Rimac and San Martin de Porras.

The incident took place at approximately at 2000 when a package with explosives was thrown by two terrorists traveling in a white Volkswagen. The blast damaged the bank's neon sign and also ruptured the potable water pipes. The police also reported similar attacks to local banks located in Peru and Mexico Avenues in La Victora. Only minor property damages and no casualties have been reported.

### Cachique Rivera Drug Gang Sought by Police

*PY0702164894 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Jan 94 p 14*

[Article by Angel Paez]

[Text] The "Cachique Rivera Clan" is a drug trafficking gang that is still free and continues to manufacture cocaine in Augaytia and in the Pozuzo Valley under the orders of the Cali Cartel.

None of its members have ever been arrested although the police have conducted several operations against it, both in the coca producing areas and in Lima where five stylish houses were searched in San Borja and La Molina.

The Cachique Rivera brothers, from Huanuco, is another family involved in large-scale trafficking. The Cachique Rivera family is perhaps the only drug gang authorized by the Cali Cartel to produce cocaine hydrochloride in Peru.

The Cachique Rivera family, originally residents of Rupa Rupa, Leoncio Prado Province, Huanuco Department, mainly conduct their operations in the Pozuzo Valley, a jungle area in Pasco. They work from a big abandoned ranch that has a secret landing strip. They also operate in Aguaytia, Padre Abad Province, Ucayali Department.

Cocaine production is a task carried out exclusively by Colombians in their country, but the Cachique Riveras have achieved such an important organizational level that the Cali Cartel heads have allowed them a biweekly production of between 400 and 500 kg of cocaine.

Chemists from Colombia, trained by their Peruvian employers, are in charge of transforming the cocaine paste into cocaine.

In November 1991, the Cachique Rivera family received a harsh blow from the antidrug forces when their laboratory in Boca de Santa Ana, Ycayali, was destroyed and 250 kg of cocaine hydrochloride was seized.

About 100 kg of this seizure was "lost" in the offices of the Executive Agency for Drug Control, Ofecod. This scandal was not investigated and remains unpunished.

The Cachique Rivera family organization system is highly effective because none of its members were arrested during the police operation. Two years later they again evaded the security forces.

On 5 February 1993, the DEA invaded the Cachique Rivera hideout in Aguaytia and found a well-equipped laboratory, a sophisticated arsenal comprising UZI submachine guns, Remington repeater rifles, Star and Browning rifles, AKM rifles, hand grenades, and a highly- sophisticated communication system, including an Icon transceiver and Yaesu equipment.

Moreover, the antidrug force found 25 gallons of 100-LL type gasoline for small planes.

Three days later, and as a result of the questioning of those arrested in the operation—Marina Saavedra Ramirez, Augusto Figueroa Garcia and Alicia Egoavil Grandez—the police broke into the Cachique Rivera laboratory in Carachama, Aguaytia, on the Yurac River.

The antidrug force found 48 large containers of chemicals used in the manufacturing of drugs; 16 gallons of ammonia; 50 kg of potassium permanganate; 16 hammocks used in the drying of the cocaine paste; 10 zinc

sheets; high-precision scales; six microwave ovens; a dozen generators, and even a beacon [faro].

The quality of the infrastructure, which included electric water pumps, 50 primus stoves, metal sieves, and staples to feed two dozen people for three months, show the volume of the gang's production.

The Dinandro [Antidrug Division] again gave another blow to the Cachique Rivera family on 28 April 1993, but this time it was in Lima.

The antidrug police raided five stylish houses owned by the Cachique Rivera brothers. Two are located in the La Encantada and La Campina urban developments in Chorrillos; two on Breton and Tiziano Streets in San Borja; and one on Vina del Mar Street in the El Sol de La Molina urbanization development. They were valued at $500,000.

Other members of the gang were identified during these raids but they are still at large. They are: Armando Rivera Tanga, Maria Sanchez Rios, Isminia Espinoza Ascencia, Adrian Condor Meza and Gladys Escalante Aguilar.

Dinandro and the DEA office have reported that the chief of the trafficking gang is Abelardo Cachique Rivera, alias "Teniente" or "Negro". He was born on 20 September 1959 in Bagua Grande, Amazonas.

His second in command is Segundo Gaudencio, alias "Capitan" or "Guno." He was born on 3 December 1957, in Rupa Rupa, Leoncio Prado, Huanuco.

The police have also identified Adolfo, alias "Alferez", who was born on 20 November 1961; Nicolas, alias "Mayor", born on 30 November 1953; Margarita, no known alias, born on 7 May 1964; all of whom were born in Rupa Rupa.

Also identified in the Dinandro files but reported as "at large" is the father of the clan, Gaudencio Cachique Rivera, 57 years old, born in Lamas, San Martin.

A high-ranking Dinandro official said: "Cachique Rivera is a very well organized family gang that receives a very special treatment from the Cali Cartel. They produce cocaine hydrochloride in large quantities. They have been identified."

A well-informed U.S. Embassy source connected to the antidrug operation said he is aware of the activities of the Cacique Rivera brothers and described them as "an important trafficking gang that operates in Peru."

With the arrest of [Drug Kingpin] "Vaticano", and the damage to his organization with his arrest, the so-called "Cachique Rivera gang" has now gained a new level of importance.

The U.S. Embassy source said: "This gang moves a great deal of drug because they are cocaine manufacturers and hoarders."

The Dinandro office reports that in addition to "manufacturing" 1,000 kg of cocaine per month, the Cachique Rivera gang also "exports" 20 metric tonnes of cocaine paste per month to Colombia.

The members of the Cachique Rivera gang are being sought by the 7th Correctional Court and by the 13th Lima Instruction Court on charges of drug trafficking. They will most likely be sentenced to life imprisonment.

Abelardo Caccique, alias "Teniente" or "Negro" frequently travels to Colombia to report on the gang's activities to its Cali Cartel chiefs.

A Dinandro officer said: "This gang is one of our immediate objectives. It is only a matter of time. We are working on it."

## Opposition Says Majority Attempting To Impose Dictatorship

*PA0702184494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2045 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Lima, 2 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The opposition minority in the Peruvian Congress criticized the ruling majority today for attempting to impose a dictatorship in Congress and hindering the legislature's supervision.

Six of the nongovernment parties and political groups represented in Congress characterized the approval of new commission staffs for the 1994 legislative period as arbitrary and antidemocratic.

The ruling Change 90/New Majority Movement Coalition on 1 February modified most of the 16 commissions, 13 of which will be chaired by the ruling coalition, two by groups allied with the government, and one by the opposition.

The removal of Roger Caceres, former Human Rights Commission chairman, and his replacement by progovernment Congressman Carlos Blanco prompted angry protests and a walk-out by opposition deputies.

According to critics, the ruling majority "will have in its hands another mechanism with which to continue covering up" violations of human rights in which "the state apparatus is presumably involved."

They mentioned as an example the disappearance of nine students and one professor from "La Cantuta" Teachers School in southeastern Lima following a military incursion on 18 July 1992 by perpetrators who have not yet been punished.

"The year has opened with evidence that the ruling coalition will impose a dictatorship in Congress and will not listen to the opposition's proposals or their demands for participation in legislative and supervisory efforts," an opposition statement read.

The Moralizing Independent Front (Fim), Peasants and Workers National Front (FNTC), Democratic Left Movement (MDI), Independent Agrarian Movement

(MIA), Democratic Coordinating Group (Code) and Popular Christian Party (PPC) have said the ruling coalition is trying to control the supervisory commissions.

Coalition Deputy Victor Joy Way, who has coordinated the preparation of the commission staffs, maintains the productivity and punctuality of its members were considered.

The MDI's Julio Castro Gomez said congressional regulations do not establish that every year the commission staffs must be modified, adding that every change requires two thirds of all the votes for approval.

The formation of the new commissions was only approved by 39 of 80 members of the so-called Democratic Constituent Congress (CCD).

CCD President Jaime Yoshiyama said the staff of the ordinary commissions can be modified with the agreement of all the members of the working groups.

Yoshiyama expressed regret over the withdrawal of the opposition congressmen, and he announced the ruling majority is seriously working on the preparation of its own draft bills.

Joy Way, the CCD's second vice president, established a 72-hour deadline for the opposition to present, by consensus, any changes of its representatives in the congressional commissions.

The ruling coalition controls the following commissions: constitution, supervision, production, justice, environment, human rights, decentralization and local governments, foreign relations, defense, health, budget, energy and economy.

Carlos Torres, who will continue at the head of the Constitution Commission, announced the work groups will be installed during the week, thereby dismissing the possibility of the modifications the opposition is demanding.

Torres said the Change 90/New Majority Movement Coalition has every right to renew the chairman of the Human Rights Commission, and he acknowledged the work of Caceres, a member of the FNTC.

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